THE

STATE

OF

PHYSICK,

ANCIENT and MODERN,

Briefly confider'd:

WITHA

PLAN for the IMPROVEMENT of it.

By FRANCIS CLIFTON, M.D.

Physician to his Royal Highness the PRINCE of WALES, Fellow of the College of PHYSICIANS, and of the ROYAL SOCIETY.

The authors, who have improved this art, are not a few; but they are not to be comprehended within the compass of a few years. A thousand writers, perhaps, for a thousand years, have been improving this Art and Profession: and be that industriously studies those authors, will, in the short period of life, find out as much as if he had lived a thousand years himself, or employed those thousand years in the study of Physick.

FREIND's History of Physick, Vol. II. p. 63.

LONDON,

Printed by W. Bowyer, for John Nourse without Temple-Bar. MDCCXXXII.



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Prince of WALES.

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TO HIS

ROYAL HIGHNESS

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Prince of WALES.

SIR,

HE Arts and Sciences have been long found of fuch great importance to the well-being of mankind, that the A 2 wisest

wisest and best of Princes, in all Ages, have made the encouragement and protection of 'em their study and delight.

Your Royal Highness is so well vers'd in the Histories of former Ages, that it is needless to produce any instance of this nature. Every Nation has had its Mœcenas. But Learning of all kinds was never so universally promoted, nor so remarkably distinguish'd, in this Country, as we have lately seen it under the mild and

and auspicious Government of the most illustrious House of Hanover.

Encourag'd by this noble example in Your Royal Parents, and Your own natural good disposition, I have presum'd, Sir, to lay before You, The State of Physick, ancient and modern: an Art, of the utmost consequence to the ease and comfort of Life.

To make it more simple and agreeable to Nature, and by that means more useful to mankind, and which was a sum of the sum

is the design of the present undertaking: a design, that is always sure of proper encouragement from a Prince, whose Generosity is so extensive, and whose Benevolence so universal.

Your ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

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most bumble and

most dutiful Servant,

FRANCIS CLIFTON.



THE

PREFACE.

Short view of the state of Physick, as it stood among the Ancients, and as it now stands among the Moderns, having been recommended to me (by a particular friend) as a curious and useful subject, sit to be considered at this time, I have been put upon revising some papers I had by me; which, as they were wrote at first for my own private use,

were drawn up in too concife a manner to be fit for the Publick, without considerable alterations and additions.

My design from the beginning was to represent the affair to my self in as clear and as strong a light as I cou'd, in order to form a right and impartial judgment, which of us have the advantage, the Ancients or the Moderns? a point, that, when once settled, might enable us (perhaps) to think of something farther, to make the Art still more useful. The steps that were necessary upon this occasion, the troublesome enough at first, have yet been taken, and, I hope, carefully: and as to the additional part, (which is considerable) tho' it came upon me at a time when I

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a If any Person thinks this point out of the question, I desire he would read with care the conclusion of Dr. Freind's history of Physick, Vol. I.

was fully employ'd in preparing my edition of Hippocrates; yet, as the subject was of great importance, I thought it better to steal a little time from that edition, than neglect an opportunity of obliging so worthy a friend: especially as I should be more in the way of vindicating my self at the same time from a reflection that had been cast upon me, on account of my book of Tabular Obfervations for the improvement of Physick, publish'd last year; as if out of an over-fondness for the Ancients, I had slighted the Moderns too much: an opinion that some Gentlemen were pleas'd to entertain; but with how much justice, the Publick is the best judge. I said then what I really thought; and I have had no reason since to alter my opinion, as to the usefulness of observations in Physick in opposition to Schemes and 111/18/2018/2

and Theories. The method there propos'd may perhaps receive some advantages from the various systems here consider'd: and therefore the reader is not to be surprized, to find many things in this book, that were faid in the other; especially as that is now out of print, and the design in both the same, viz. the improvement of Physick in the plainest and most natural way.

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Hippocrates, Celfus, Pliny, Carlius Aurelianus, and Galen, among the Ancients; and Le Clerc and Freind, among the Moderns, are the principal authors I have confulted: and, to say the truth, whoever reads the Histoire of Le Clerc, and the continuation of it by Freind, may, if he please, save himself the trouble of reading much of the historical part of this book. Not but the concise view bere attempted, and the andres

many

many remarks that are interspers d up and down, will, 'tis bop'd, make it far from nauseous, even to those who are best acquainted with these authors. And as to the rest, those I mean who are not well acquainted with 'em, they will here find several things, in a plain and simple dress, useful at least, if not entertaining. And, for their farther encouragement, I can assure 'em before-hand, that nothing is here strain'd to serve a turn, or misrepresented to make disturbance: a practice, that I have always had an abborrence of. As the affair has appeard to me, upon a thorow consideration, I have fairly set it down for the consideration and use of others. The freedom I have taken in commending, cenfuring, and comparing, the opinions and practices of different men in different ages, may perhaps

perhaps be disagreeable to some persons, as not carrying with it always that decency and complaisance that the politeness of the present times have made in a manner fashionable. If this shou'd be the case, I shall be sorry: for I would not willingly offend any one; and I am very sure I never intended it. But unless a man can speak his mind freely, what signifies speaking at all? How Shall we ever come at the Truth, if our real sentiments are artfully disguis'd? I may be out as well as another; (every man is liable to mistake) but I am not so designedly. Nor am I so bigotted to my own opinion, but that, if any man will be so kind as to shew me my error, I will readily quit it, and thank him for giving himself the trouble. Truth is what I would always arrive at, if I could, especialexelerne the inces of our tellow-

creatures in this manner; even the

The PREFACE.

ly in an affair of such consequence as Physick. Mistakes or frauds bere are worse than any: and therefore 'tis better that a Physician Shou'd Speak his opinion plainly and candidly, even tho' he shou'd suffer a little in his character as an author, than lead mankind into errors by an oftentatious shew of Philosophy. What signifies tickling the ears of the reader, and making him believe more than is true? The Art is the thing to be study'd, and not the craft. Diseases are not to be cur'd by charms or flourishes, but by a regular and constant observance of their several appearances, and a judicious application of remedies accordingly. An affair of such importance, that nothing Shou'd be able to discourage us from attempting to preserve the lives of our fellowcreatures in this manner; even tho' the

the contempt and obloquy, that generally fall to the share of such Practitioners, Shou'd, by the malice of designing men, be doubted upon us. He, who has nothing base or wicked in view, Shall never want friends enow to support him: whereas the man of other principles, tho he may flourish as it were for a moment, Shall after that be soon discover'd, and snar'd in the works of his own bands. 'Tis a difficult tafk, no doubt of it, to touch upon some vices, to purpose, without raising a great many enemies, and fo burting one's self more than reforming the abuses. Some people are so malignant as to oppose every thing that is good, or that they themselves have had no hand in. Defamation is their chief, if not their only delight. But even these, who are the very pests of mankind, ought never to have such

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an influence over us, as to fright us from attempting what is really useful. Vices attended with profit are the hardest of all to be parted with or suppress'd: but yet it is sometimes necessary to look into em, to see whether any thing can be mended or not. That many things in Physick, which may properly be considered as the vices or abuses of the Art, might be thang'd for the better, is most certain; and that, if no body sets about it, such a change will never happen, is as certain.

That Quackery, for instance, shou'd be rather suppress'd than countenanc'd, is what every body will grant.

That the encrease and reputation of Nostrums, which have been of late so shamefully encouraged, and that by men of learning and figure, should be prevented, if possible, is likewise obvious: for if this way of proceed-

ing Shou'd prevail, the foundations of the Art wou'd Shake, and there wou'd soon be no difference left between the most ignorant pretender, and the wisest Physician; and, which is worst of all, the constitutions of people wou'd be entirely ruin'd.

Once more; that the making the practice of Physick easier and less expensive to the Patient would be a benefit to every body, is also evident at first sight: and so are several other things that might easily be mention'd. I shou'd be glad therefore, (and 'tis all that I desire) " that the " Practice was put upon such a " good and humane foot, that no " body might be afraid of Physick " when they really want it; but re-" ceive from it all the benefit it is " capable of affording." This is the Centre of all my desires and all my endea-

endeavours: and I hope no man will be so weak or so malicious as to conclude from these, or any expressions in the book itself a, that I am an enemy to the Apothecary: if he Shou'd, give me leave to tell him, his conclusion is false. I am an enemy to no man, but him who under false pretences deceives and injures his neighbour. As it is highly reasonable that a Physician, who has been at a great expence in his education, and devotes himself entirely to the service of the Publick, Shou'd be handsomely consider'd for his advice and care; so it is equally reasonable that an Apothecary, who has likewise been at some expence to learn the art and mystery of his profession, and is constantly oblig'd to give due attendance, (let the dif-

a tance

Particularly in p. 16, 45, 54, 55, 56, 65, 72, 73; and especially 152, 154, 155, 156, &c.

tance from the Patient be what it will) shou'd also be consider'd, not only for his medicines, but his trouble too, whenever the case requires but little Physick or tie on Ands Had

There is but one thing more that I wou'd premise, and that is to prevent any mistake about the word Philosophical, as sometimes applied here to Physicians. By it I mean no more than theoretical, or fuch Physicians as, out of an over-fondness for any particular opinion, are above considering how the case really is in Nature; and, rather than give up a favourable Scheme, will run the hazard of losing the Patient. This has been the case too often among the Ancients and the Moderns, where Philosophy has been too hastily or injudiciously applied to Physick, and will be the case again, if Observation does not prevent it. In

In all other instances Philosophy is highly commendable. This is all I have to premise: and if what is now to follow, does but answer, I shall think my self well paid for all my time and labour.

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N. B. The Reader will here find an account of all the eminent Sects in Physick, with their respective Founders, for above two thousand years past, viz. the Dogmatists, the Empiricks, the Methodists, the Episyntheticks, the Eclecticks, and the Pneumatists; besides the most remarkable among the Galenists.

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STATE

OF

PHYSICK

ANCIENT and MODERN.

SECT. I.

Of the State of Physick among the Greeks.



HERE has been a good deal The reason of pains taken to make the of the preworld believe, that Physick quiry.

was never in a better state

than now; and it is not the easiest mat-

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ter to offer any thing in opposition (how decently or judiciously soever it may be managed) without raising many Adversaries. The modern Discoveries in Philosophy, Anatomy aud Medicine, say they, have set the affair in fo clear a light, that we can fee farther in one day than the Ancients could in an Age. This is a popular way of talking; and in fo philosophical an Age as this, believed without any manner of difficulty; especially as no body can deny, that the advantages from these Difcoveries are indeed very confiderable. But I am of opinion, notwithstanding all these Discoveries, there was a time once, when Physick was in a better state than it is at present; and for any thing I see to the contrary, there may be a time hereafter, when it may be better than it is now, or than it was then. Two or three things well managed would do the business effectually, or I am much mistaken. But before we come to the confideration of these points, it may not be amiss to take a short view of the state of Physick among the Ancients, and the

the state it is now in among the Moderns; in order to form a right judgment, and enable us to strike out with more ease a clear and regular Method of improving the Art to the utmost.

To begin then with the Ancients. They The Pracontented themselves for many Ages with Ancients. a diligent observance of plain matters of fact, without attempting to explain the manner how those facts were produced; and to this they added an industrious enquiry after the best remedies, without attempting to reason upon their several effects; esteeming accurate Observations and good Medicines infinitely more useful than all the reasoning in the world without them. The Asclepiadean Family, that Of the Aslasted above seven hundred years, and Family. were in a manner the fole proprietors of Physick, were remarkable for this kind of Practice. And perhaps, if the Philosophers had not interposed, Physick would have been a stranger to this day to the many Theories, that have fince confounded ir. Though indeed it must be confessed, that B 2 before

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before Pythagoras's time (who was the first that introduc'd Philosophy into Phyfick, and that about eighty years before Hippocrates) there was a strange inclina-. tion in Physicians to Enthusiasm; and what they would not be at the pains to cure by dint of Observation and Experience, they were very ready to attempt by Charms and Amulers. These were common in the days of Æsculapius, who, as Celsus and Galen tell us a, was the first that rescued Physick from the hands of the vulgar, and, rejecting the idle part, adhered to the folid. This was the Æsculapius of the Greeks (the Son of Apollo, and the Pupil of Chiron the Centaur) so famous in all Antiquity for his divine skill in Physick, of which he himself gave some noble proofs in the Argonautick, expedition; and his Sons Podalyrius and Machaon, at the fiege

Æsculapius, the Founder.

> Medicina Clinica, tion.

To him we owe the Medicina Clinica, bis inven- or the custom of visiting the Sick in their

of Troy, about fifty years after.

beds;

a See Celjus's preface, and the first chapter of Galen's book called Medicus.

To him we owe likewise the Medicina Medicina Gymnasti-Gymnastica, another noble improvement. ca, bis 100, I am very sensible that Herodicus (who is and not Herodifaid to have been Hippocrates's Master) is cus's. generally looked upon as the Inventer of this; and it cannot be denied, that he carried the matter farther than any of his Predecessors, and was the first, who established it as an Art to preserve or recover Health by, under certain rules and precepts, which have been loft for many Ages, but were once in great esteem, even though the observance of them proved fo fatal to some persons, especially in Fevers, as Hippocrates has remark'd, and that with an uncommon degree of

See Herodotus, Strabo and Pliny.

B 3

feve-

feverity. But Galen does expressly assure us b, that Æsculapius actually prescribed Exercise of various kinds to his Patients, and therefore may very well be counted the Inventer. So Pliny makes Hippocrates the Inventer of the Medicina Clinica; and yet it is very plain, that he was only an Improver of it; the custom itself having existed in the Family long before he was born.

Æsculapius deservedly honoured. No wonder then, that Æsculapius, who had done so much for the good of mankind, should be so remarkably distin-

b See his first book de Sanitate tuenda, c. 8.
c See his preface to the twenty-ninth book.

guished

L. 6. Ep. Sect. 3. Aph. 23. I confess I had rather understand this of Prodicus, a Disciple of Hippocrates, than of Herodicus, his Master; for it does not appear that Herodicus was so injudicious a Practitioner; but as to Prodicus, he was for going out of the way that his Master had taught him, as we shall see presently, and was as liable to a mistake of this kind as any man, if we may judge of him by his vanity. Add to this, that the sixth book of Epidemicks, from which this remark is taken, has never been allow'd to be genuine, but rather the work of Thessalus, the Son of Hippocrates, who might very well be acquainted with the Practice of Prodicus. And besides, all the printed Editions, except Linden's, read it Προδικος and not Heggine; though indeed the Translators read it Herodicus, and two MSS Heggine, but all the rest Προδικος.

guished by them, and have had so many famous Temples erected to his honour. Great Benefactors will always be distinguished. The method he took was certainly just at that time, though it extended only to Observations and Medicines. It would have been ridiculous to have applied Philosophy; because the Anatomy of the parts, and the nature of Diseases were then but imperfectly understood: And without a right knowledge of these things, the fonder we are of Philosophy, the farther we err from the Truth. Æf- od Albor culapius therefore wisely applied himself to Observation, and his Descendents carefully improv'd it upon the plan that he had left them. Anatomy was taken in Anatomy afterwards, as a useful and necessary part, not much, but yet inferior to the other, even in their by the Atown opinion, as appears by the small im- ans. provements they made in this, compared with what they made in that. Galen imagines (for what reason I cannot see) that Anatomy was in perfection in their days: And beyond all question, the Sacrifices B 4 Society all sood and

guithed

and Embalmings of the Ægyptians (from whom the Greeks had their Physick) could not but inform them of many things relating to the structure of the Body, that otherwise would have been unknown. But I am fure, by what we find of it in Hippocrates (who is the oldest Greek Physician) now extant) the case appears quite otherwife. However, be this as it will, it is on all fides agreed, that Observation was their chief study, and this they cultivated with the utmost care, till Philosophy broke in upon them.

Pythagoras introlosophy.

Pythagoras was the man, who first induced Phi- troduced Philosophy into Physick, and undertook to explain the Causes of Diseases, and several things of that kind, by it. 'Tis true, he, and most of his followers, went no farther than the Theory, and fo could not do much harm. But Empedocles (one of his most famous Disciples, who at last paid dear for his curiofity at Ætna) concerned himself with the Practice, with all that Magick and stuff about him, that his Master had taught him; and yet (to do him

him justice) was remarkable for several extraordinary cures, so little did his Philosophy influence him sometimes. What his way of thinking was, may be seen in le Clerc 2, who has given us a short and ingenious account of it. And whoever would see more, may meet with it in the book de Principiis, and that de Natura Hominis among the works of Hippocrates, supposed to be wrote by Democritus, an acquaintance of Hippocrates, and a Disciple of Pythagoras.

Thus clogg'd with false Philosophy, Hip-Hippoporates found Physick; and yet (which is character very wonderful) neither his Reasonings, nor and conhis Observations, nor his Remedies, discover any, or at least very little, tincture of the weakness and superstition that then prevail'd. On the contrary, his good sense got the better of all that, and retaining only so much Philosophy, as was of real use in Physick, he wisely join'd Reasoning and Experience together, which none of the

L'bistoire de la Medeçine, premiere partie, 1. 2. 0. 4, 5.

Philo-

Philosophers or Physicians had ever attempted before: the one infifting upon Experience without Philosophy, and the other upon Philosophy without Experience. Thus was Phyfick freed at that time from the jargon of the Philosophers, and the bufiness of observation cultivated with all the care and exactness imaginable; beyond what former Ages had done, or even what fucceeding Ages have known. And for this he was esteem'd by all the Ancients, the great Restorer and Establisher of Physick, next to Æsculapius (the God of Physick) who liv'd about feven hundred years be-An objecti-fore him.

on anfwer'd.

Liguosa

I know it will here be objected, that the books de natura bom. de principiis, de natura pueri, and the first book of Diet, (not to mention any more) are a proof, that Hippocrates was not so free from the Philosophy that then prevail'd, as has been pretended, how little foever he might be influenced by it in his Practice. To which I answer, that it cannot be deny'd, there are many Philosophical pieces among the works of Hipp. which, without any injury to Physick, might

very

very well be spar'd. But then it is to be consider'd, that almost all those pieces have been, time out of mind, suspected to have been wrote by some other hand, viz. some by Polybus, others by Heraclitus; some again by Democritus, and others by Herodicus. Nor is it at all probable, that a man so intent, as Hippocrates, upon the improvement of Physick by Observation, in opposition to the Philosophy then in fashion, and withal so capable of accomplishing what he had undertaken, should find either time or inclination for fuch amusements, as he could not but know, rather retarded than promoted his defign. Those things might do very well for men of a common genius, from whom no great matters could ever be expected in Philosophy or Medicine. Hippocrates was above it. And therefore, while others were beating their brains about Causes and Principles, and the philosophical reason of things, he wisely applied himfelf to the confideration of the true state of His chief Diseases, and of what we call the Nonna-study, and the rejute turals, in order to find out what it was, that of it. brought

brought about all those great changes, so common and fo furprifing, in a human body. The result of his enquiries was, that a Disease does not happen without a change in the Fluids or Solids, or both; and that an error in the Nonnaturals is generally the occasion of it; and lastly, that the Phænomena or Symptoms that follow upon it, are the natural effects of the Mechanism of the Body, when the powers, of which it is composed, are permitted to exert their proper force. Thus for instance, when we take in any thing that is injurious, but yet not strong enough to put an end to life, either the Stomach returns it, or the Intestines discharge it; or, if a part of it gets into the Blood, we either fall into a Sweat, or make a great quantity of Urine, or bleed at the Nose and other parts, or find a Swelling fomewhere: And all this, without any knowledge or defign on our part, but merely by the mechanical operation of the Fluids and Solids upon one another, to throw His notion off the offending matter. This Hippocrates of Nature. calls Nature in us, which, upon the wifest

and

and strictest search that ever man made, he pronounces to be sufficient of itself for every thing, in the main, and wherever it is not fufficient, the way to relief is plainly pointed out. Persuaded of this doctrine, his principal care was, so to examine the course of Nature in the progress of Diseafes, as not only to know the past, the prefent, and the future appearances, but alfo to describe them in such a manner, that others might know them too. And in this he has acquitted himself so well, that no man fince has been able to describe or prognosticate any thing like what he could. The weak, the lazy, and the voluptuous part of the Faculty had been tempted to look upon these things, especially his Prog-His Prognosticks, as matters of Curiosity, not much nosticks vato be depended on; having never been able ceiv'd. to meet with any thing like them themfelves: Nor indeed can they ever fall in the way of fuch persons. But the wise, the industrious, and the sober part, have always look'd upon them as the most judicious and most useful remarks, that ever were yet made;

made; and have found them to hold furprifingly true from time to time, in instances without number; so constant and uniform are the Operations of Nature, and so judicious and candid the Observations of Hippocrates.

The diæte- Nor did his great Genius stop here. He bis Inven- invented for us that excellent part of Phyfick, which we call the Diætetical, or that which regards the Nourishment or Diet of Patients: an affair of fuch importance, that he made it not only his principal, but oftentimes his only Remedy, especially where the power of Nature was very ftrong. And to fay the truth, his other observations would not have been of half the fervice that they now are, had he not added this excellent part to them. For to know a Disease well, though it be necessary to the cure, is not always fufficient of itself: But to know the Disease, and to know at the fame time what is proper for the Patient, both as to Diet and Medicine, is to know every thing that one would wish to know. This Hippocrates was very sensible of, and therefore

therefore was as curious in the choice of his Diet, as in examining his Patient: And in what he has left us upon this head, especially where he treats upon the Diet in acute cases, he has shewn himself a compleat Master.

Nor was he less expert at Surgery; every A great part of which, except cutting for the Stone, Surgery. he feems to have practifed himself, and with a judgment little inferiour, if not equal, to the very best of the moderns.

As to the Materia Medica, it was consi- An Imderably inlarged in his time to what it was prover of among the Cnidians, (a branch of the Af-riaMedica. clepiadean Family) who were remarkable for using very little Physick, and that of the fimplest kind imaginable, viz. Milk, Whey, and Elaterium. But then Hippocrates imputed this simplicity of theirs to a want of industry and inquisitiveness, and not to any extraordinary dexterity in those Physicians above others; as though with the simplest Remedies, they could cure the greatest Disorders . Far from it. And for

^{*} See the book de Diæta in acutis, at the beginning.

His Pharmacopæia

never yet publish'd. this reason, the Materia Medica was so much inlarged in his time, in order to bear fome proportion to the variety of cases that continually happen: And in this too he succeeded so well, that the greatest part of his Remedies are in use to this day. How some of them were prepared, it is not easy to demonstrate; his Pharmacopæia (that he refers to more than once) having never yet been publish'd: So that we can only judge of them by what we find in the Books of the Diseases of Women, and a few other places. However it appears very plain, that he himself used but few, and those as simple as could well be contrived. His greatest quantity, as well as variety, was in the Diseases of Women, where, every body knows, the case is sometimes ex-

His Candour and

ceedingly difficult.

We find no mention of Nostrums or Generosity. Specificks in this great Author. All is fair and above-board. And he feems fo far from envying others the knowing as much as himself, that he has been at the pains to instruct us step by step from our

first

first setting out to the end of our Practice in every thing that is likely to make us great, and our Art famous. Astronomy His opinion he seems to have had a good opinion of, as my and Ata proper qualification for a Physician; and traction. the doctrine of Attraction (a doctrine fo much in vogue now-a-days) he was by no means a stranger to, but thought it of great confequence in the animal œconomy. In a word, considering the state he found Physick in, and the state he left it in, it is not at all to be wonder'd at, that he has ever been esteem'd the Prince of Physicians. It is much more to be wonder'd at, that a scheme so good should ever have been neglected. He certainly put us in the right way of proceeding; and if ever Phyfick be brought to perfection, it must be by his method, viz. judicious observation and wife reasoning.

But as all sublunary things are in a state The conof sluctuation, and the wisest schemes not due of his sons. always the longest-liv'd; so it far'd with this of Hippocrates. His sons, Thessalus and Draco, (sure of immortality for their father's sake) did no great matters themselves felves to speak of, though some parts of Hippocrates's works have been attributed to them: the one passing the greatest part of his time in the Court of Archelaus King of Macedon, and Draco living so obscurely, that we know nothing more of him, than that he was the son of Hippocrates, and had a son of the same name himself, who was Physician to Roxana the wife of Alexander the great.

And of Polybus, bis fon-in-law. h

Polybus indeed, their brother-in-law, was a man of another temper. He had made himself master of the old man's doctrine, and kept close to it all along, without indulging himself in sloth or pleasure; and was the Author of several famous books, some of which are in being to this day, exclusive of those in the works of Hippocrates, which were antiently attributed to him, such as the book de Natura Pueri, &c. a book that does great honour to the Author, let him be who he will.

Prodicus a But Prodicus, a disciple of Hippocrates, great trifler. (who was next in reputation to the family itself) soon grew weary of his master's me-

thod;

thod; and instead of pursuing the business of Observation, gave himself up to criticise upon words, the much easier work of the two: in which, however, he acquitted himself but indifferently, if we may believe Galen a. This, though a great Injury, came far short Plato did of that which Plato did to Physick, who greater inlived about thirty-two years after Hippo-jury. crates, and was cotemporary with Ctehas the Cnidian Physician, who afterwards wrote the history of Assyria and Persia from the records of the Country: for he studied it upon the Pythagorean system, and undertook to explain by it the greatest difficulties, still professing a high esteem for Hippocrates. His notions were ex- His odd tremely odd in many respects; and yet the notions. greatness of his name made them all go down, gross as they were. He imagined, for instance, that the first form Matter received was triangular, and that from these triangles were produced afterwards the four sensible Elements, viz. Fire, Water,

* See 1. 8. de Hipp. & Plat. placitis c. 6, &c.

Air, and Earth, from which all other bodies were form'd. And with regard to the human body, that the spinal marrow was the first part formed, and all the rest from That the foul has its feat there: that. that the rational foul is lodged in the brain; and other fouls (or rather emanations of the foul) in different parts, for venery, valour, and the like. That the womb is an animal that wishes to conceive; but if it be too long disappointed, it grows angry, and runs about the body, stopping up the passages for the air, taking away respiration, and occasioning an infinite number of diseases. And with regard to Fevers; that, if the fire exceeded, continual and ardent fevers were occasioned; if the air, quotidians and intermittents; if the water, tertians; and if the earth, quartans. And thus he reafoned upon other parts of Physick, puzzling the mind with unintelligible stuff, and diverting it from the business of Obfervation.

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The State of PHYSICK.

A little after him came Aristotle (a de-Aristotle a great imfeendent of Æsculapius, and præceptor to prover of Alexander) who wrote two books in Phy-Anatomy, sec. sick (which are lost) and a great deal upon Anatomy, viz. the Anatomy of Brutes; human bodies not being dissected till Erasistratus and Herophilus's time. He was very particular in describing the uses of the parts, and made several discoveries in Anatomy, that had not been made before: but as to his Philosophy, that was no better than his master Plato's.

While the philosophers were trying their Diocles Cafkill with Physick, Diocles Carystius (a rystius no friend to Physician of the first rank) appeared a-the Philomong them. He was cotemporary with sophers, but fondof Aip-Aristotle, and survived him; but troubled pocrates. himself very little about the notions of the Philosophers, preferring the doctrine of Hippocrates, as being the doctrine of Nature, to all that had been said by the others. And indeed he was so great an admirer of Hippocrates, that the Athenians called him the second Hippocrates. Galen commends him too as a good and humane Physician,

and a great promoter of Anatomy. His works (which were not a few, and very valuable) are all loft, except some fragments. Calius Aurelianus has given us an account of him, and mentions his ordering a leaden bullet to be swallowed in an Ileus; which was going a step farther than his great master Hippocrates.

Praxagoras fuch another.

Praxagoras, the third remarkable Phyfician next to Hippocrates and his fons, was not long after Diocles. He was a Coan too, and of the Asclepiadean family, but indeed the last, according to Galen, and stood up very much for rational Physick, (viz. Physick that is founded upon Reafon and Experience) and is mentioned by Galen, as a Master of his profession. His works are all loft, except what we find in Cælius; who shews us plainly, that though he followed Hippocrates in general, he went beyond him fometimes, as in the case of Vomits for instance, which he used to promote to excess; and even beyond Diocles too, as in the case of an Ileus; where, when other remedies failed, he would open the

the belly, and put the guts to rights. He was likewise look'd upon as a good Anatomist, and the master of *Herophilus*.

These were the principal Physicians, Chrysipwho stood up for the Hippocratick method pus's conof Physick in opposition to that of the Philosophers, who had made it much easier to follow their way of thinking, than Hippocrates's way of acting. Nor was the opposition confined to Philosophers only. For about the same time a Cnidian Physician appear'd, in opposition to the Physicians last mention'd, and declar'd himself at once against several things in Physick, that were univerfally esteem'd, particularly against bleeding and purging; and by an extraordinary way of babling ', did what he could to overturn the maxims of the Ancients, that had been founded upon many Ages experience. This was Chrysppus (not Chrysippus the philosopher, but) the master of Erafistratus, who came in with his master in some things, according to the account

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that

Horum placita Chryfippus ingenti garrulitate mutavit, are the words of Pliny, 1. 29. c. 1.

that Pliny and Galen give us. Not but Erafistratus was a man of a better turn'd head than the other; and though he agreed with him as to bleeding and purging (in the room of which they usually substituted abstinence, vomits, glisters, and now and then exercise) yet he maintain'd a great reverence for the Ancients, and made use of many things recommended by Hippocrates, even though he wrote expresly against the Coan Physicians, among whom he included Hippocrates. He is said too, to have discovered a love-sickness of Antiochus, the fon of Seleucus Nicanor, by a nice observation of the circumstances that attended it: for which he was rewarded in a most extraordinary manner. But his greatest excel-He and He-lence was Anatomy, which in conjunction famous A- with Herophilus, he carried much farther natomists. than any of his predecessors. They had indeed better opportunities for it, Ptolemy Soter, and Philadelphus (the founders of the Alexandrian Library) furnishing them with fubjects at Alexandria out of the malefac-

tors who had forfeited their lives to justice.

Some

rophilus,

Some of these they are said to have diffected alive. And even Celsus himself, in the famous dispute between the Dogmatists and Empiricks, represents them, as opening them, etiamnum spiritu remanente, which he complains of afterwards as a cruel and unnecessary thing 2. But perhaps they no more deserved this character, than Medea that of boiling people, only for being the first that recommended warm-bathing; or than Carpus lately (that great restorer of Anatomy) who is faid to have opened two Spaniards alive, and was accordingly banished for it, soon after the appearance of the Lues venerea in Europe. But to return to these famous Anatomists, who were each of them the founder of an eminent fect, or rather the head of a confiderable party, that lasted many Ages after. They are, as has been mentioned before, the first upon record who diffected human bodies; and feem to have understood almost as much of feveral parts of the body, the mencety ar all xunders wife or the realetack

Sinod

See his preface.

Herophilus the chief.

brain and nerves, for instance, as those who have come after them. Herophilus in particular (who appears to have been the abler man of the two) has had the honour to have most of the names preserved to this day, that he gave to the parts; and was fo highly esteemed by Fallopius (no bad judge) " that his authority in anatomical matters " was like that of the Gospel to him: For, " fays he, when Galen confutes Herophilus, " he appears to me to confute the Gospel of " Phylicians . "But this is going too far. He was undoubtedly a great man in his way, and for his time; but there have been many greater men fince; and yet even their discoveries are not all so strictly true, as to admit of no amendment or alteration. And perhaps nothing human can be perfect, even though it be confined to the things about us, and fuch as are the immediate objects of our fenses. But this by the by.

Herophilus

See his book de materia medicinali in l. 1. Dioscoridis, c. 1. de prænotionibus circa Dioscoridem. Where are these words, viz. Cujus quidem authoritas apud me circa res Anatomicas est Evangelium. Nam, quando Galenus consutat Herophilum, censeo ego ipsum consutare Evangelium medicum.

Herophilus was a great lover of Botany as well as Phyfick and Surgery; the last of which Erafstratus was particularly famous for, though fomewhat cruel in his operations. He would, for instance, open the belly in a scirrhus of the Liver, and apply his Medicines directly to the part. Herophilus never did any thing of this kind; but following, in a great measure, the sentiments of Praxagoras his master, and those of Hippocrates, practifed upon much the same foot with them. However as to the use of me-Herophidicines, simple as well as compound, he dif- who dealt fered from them both; and was the first of much in all the Dogmatists, who dealt much this way. He was the first too, who wrote with exactness upon the doctrine of the Pulse, (notwithstanding what is said of Hoamti, the third King of China, who lived two thousand years before Hippocrates, and wrote feveral books in Physick, especially upon the Pulse, which books, as the Chinese say, are still in being) but as his works are all loft, we can only know from Galen, what his opinion was. Pliny indeed has observed

among the Greeks

observed in general, that to understand his doctrine well, a man must understand Mufick and Geometry; the study of which was fo difficult, that many of his followers foon deserted him. He wrote too against the Prognosticks of Hippocrates, as great an admirer of him as he was in some cases. Nor is it to be wonder'd at, that a man so intent upon Anatomy, &c. as Herophilus was, should be of another opinion; not having leifure enough to examine how far the Prognofticks were true or false. Nothing but a large share of practice, and a diligent obfervation from time to time, can make a man a judge of these things. They are founded intirely upon observation; and consequently he who does not observe in some fuch manner (I won't fay, with the same accuracy) as Hippocrates, can never fee the justness of his conclusions; and so may eafily be led into mistakes, that a wife and diligent observer would almost always avoid. And this is the reason that none but Physicians of the greatest application have looked upon this part of Hippocrates's works,

while others of no observation, or of but little, have not been able to make any thing of them; and for the same reason never will be able. But of this we shall have occasion to say more hereaster. As to the Anatomists before us, notwithstanding some few mistakes in point of reasoning, they were worthy of all the honour that was paid them, for the eminent services they did Physick by their Anatomical discoveries; among which that of the Lasteals, which were known to them both, was none of the least.

Their disciples were numerous enough, The conduct of but came far short of their masters; (a their distance thing that often happens) several of them ciples. entertaining notions much out of the way, as Philotimus (a disciple of both) who thought the Brain of no manner of use; and yet Galen mentions him as a good Anatomist otherwise; and a good practitioner a: so far from necessary is a perfect knowledge of many things in A-

² See 1. 8. de usu partium, c. 3.

natomy, to make a man successful in the

feet.

tus and his

Practice of Physick. Others turn'd Empiricks; and some of them set up for them-Cleophan- felves, as Cleophantus, who wrote a treatise upon the use of wine in diseases, contrary to the opinion of other Physicians, and by this means became the head of a fect, that went by the name of Cleophantines: of which number was Mnemon, who is supposed to be the Author of those characters at the end of the histories in Hippocrates's third book of Epidemicks. But the Physician of most note at this time was Nicander, some of whose works are well known to this day. Not that Theophrastus the Philosopher (who succeeded his father-in-law Aristotle at the beginning of Ptolemy's Reign, the fon of Lagus, and inherited his Library, which by the by is faid by Strabo to have been the first that ever was made) is to be pass'd by in filence, for the confiderable service he did us by his curious account of Plants, and fome other Things in the philosophical way; even though he could not forbear reasoning,

Nicander and Theophrastus. reasoning, as the other Philosophers had done before him.

But the most remarkable event of all The divisiwas the division of Physick into three fick into branches, viz. The Diætetick, the Phar-three branmaceutick, and the Chirurgick. The first ches. of which respected what we call the Regimen of the fick, or that part which relates to his Food; the second, his Medicines, or, as we now call it, his Phyfick; and the third, manual operations intirely, or, what we now call Surgery. These were the three famous divisions, which were then made, and have continued in a manner ever fince. For though fome Physicians would not come into it, but stood up for the old way of Practice, and kept fervants at home to do the servile part, and that even in Celsus's time (witness Cassius, who, in the judgment of Celfus , was the most ingenious Physician of the Age;) yet the generality of 'em were very well contented to be eafed of fo much trouble by this new division.

Way - ever flamets

See his preface.

The occasion and con-

All these discoveries and contrivances fitution of notwithstanding, Physick still seemed to the Empi be but in a bad way. The reasonings of the ricks, under Serapion. Philosophers, and the notions of the Anatomists had almost quite destroyed the doctrines of the Ancients. Every body was for shewing his parts in the philosophical way, and for making the most they could of the new discoveries; and before they were half qualified to make a right use of either, undertook to explain and account for every thing, how intricate or obvious foever. The business of observation was quite neglected; and had they gone on in the fame way, Physick must in time have been as rude and as unintelligible, as it was before the days of Æsculapius. But, to his immortal honour, Serapion of Alexandria opposed this mighty torrent, and was the first who had resolution enough to maintain, "that " reasoning was of no use in Physick, and " that we ought to adhere intirely to Ex-" perience." This was certainly going too far, if we understand it literally; and therefore we may very well suppose, the run of 1.631

the times made such expressions necessary. This happen'd about the beginning of the thirty-eighth century, in the reign of the fecond or third Ptolemy, and gave rife to a famous Sect in Physick, call'd the Empirick, who have always look'd upon Serapion of Alexandria, or Philinus of Cos, (a disciple of Herophilus, who was a half-Empirick himself, according to Galen, and cotemporary with Serapion) to be their head. Not but sometimes they carry their original higher; and in their disputes with the Dogmatists, have gone as far back as Hippocrates, or Acron of Agrigentum a, (who was something older than Hippocrates) or even farther. But though the Physicians before Hippocrates were undoubtedly Empiricks, having nothing but Experience to go upon; yet as a Sect they never were known in the world, till Serapion's time, or thereabouts. What their tenets were, and how they differ'd from the Dogmatists (who look'd upon Hippocrates as their - Stock and a ville with a blade of

See Pliny, 1. 29.

cipal opini-

head too) may be feen at large in Celfus, and Galen b; or le Clerc, who has given a fine description of them. They have always had fome or other of their fide, ever fince their foundation; especially after they admitted of a little reasoning, which the most judicious of them soon did, but were Their prin- very cautious of carrying it too far. The opinion, that most prevail'd among them was, "that three forts of experiments were " necessary to discern the useful from the " hurtful in Phyfick. The first and fim-" pleft of all was, that which is produc'd by " accident, or by nature alone, without " the help of any remedy; the fecond, " that which is produc'd by defign; and " the last, that which is produc'd by imi-" tation." The effects of every one of these, well consider'd, were necessary, in their opinion, to constitute the Art, as it ought to be: and upon this account observation was their study, and history their

> b See Celsus's preface, and Galen's books upon the Sects, and especially that de subfiguratione Empirica Secta.

> delight. But then the histories were to be

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drawn up by men of the best credit and the best capacity; (for which reason Hippocrates was always preferr'd by them to Andreas the Herophilian, who, though he was known to be a great writer, was not look'd upon to be an honest one) and when they were fatisfied in these particulars, they relied upon them intirely; especially if they could have the concurring testimony of several observators. The reason of the different appearances they never troubled themselves with, judging it sufficient to be able to observe them right, and to provide for the patients fafety accordingly, whether the immediate cause of the symptoms was known to them or not. The Dogmatifts The Dogon the other hand did not neglect observa- matists opition; but yet were of opinion, "that the Prin-" ciples of our bodies, the structure of the " parts, the causes of diseases, secret as well " as obvious, and the like, were all necessary " to be well understood by every Physician, " before he attempted to fet up for practice." This open'd a vast field, and afforded them all the opportunities they could wish for to D 2 shew

shew the brightness of their parts. And though they were fo wife as to agree with the Empiricks in the importance of observation, and were perhaps as curious in their remarks this way as the others, yet it too often happen'd, they fo puzzled the case with their nice and specious reasoning, that it was hard to tell what they really intended. Celfus thinks they were both to blame; the one, for being so afraid of reafoning; the other, for being so extremely fond of it: and therefore, like a wife man, would not lift himself of either party, but chose to be an Ecclectick, or one of that

Celfus's wife opinion and choice.

ricks cenjur'd for negletting Anatomy.

Sect, who allow'd themselves the liberty of chufing out of all others whatever they The Empi-thought was best. The Empiricks were likewise to blame, in thinking Anatomy useless. The knowledge of the parts is most certainly useful, though perhaps not altogether fo much, as fome persons have thought it. And if they had not been fo shock'd at the living diffections at Alexandria, (or rather the report of fuch things) very probably they would not only have

admitted

admitted of Anatomy, but even improv'd it. In a word, they form'd their plan upon fuch wife and good confiderations, that many Physicians of great note have join'd with them fince; among whom was Glaucias in Celsus, who us'd to call observation, bistories, and imitation (three things that the Empiricks looked upon as the foundation of their Art) the Tripod of Physick.

But the greatest of all the Empiricks was Heraclides Heraclides of Tarentum, who, though a of Taren-Herophilian by education, foon turn'd Em-most amous pirick, but would never stretch the truth to Empiricks. ferve the cause of his party; chusing rather the character of an honest man, and one who never related any thing, that he had not had experience of himself. His masters in the practical part, were Hippocrates, Diocles, and Praxagoras; and except in the business of abstinence, which he carry'd to an excessive length (sometimes to the Seventh day at the beginning of a Fever) he was generally esteem'd as judicious and wise a Physician, as any that went before him. He admitted of a little more rea-

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foning,

foning, than the generality of the Empiricks, as appears by Cælius Aurelianus, and was a diligent enquirer into the nature of Plants, Animals and Minerals, as well as of Difeases. He is suppos'd to have liv'd about the close of the thirty-eighth Century, and was more famous than any of his fucceffors; Sextus Empiricus being the only one of note before Galen's time, and Marcellus (who liv'd at Rome under Theodofius) after it; unless we except the ornament of our own country, Thomas Sydenham, who 'tis plain was an Empirick in the main, though we don't find among his works the express tenets that they held.



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SECT. II.

Of the State of Physick among the Romans.

HIS was the state of Physick among The state of the Greeks for about 1000 years. But Physickunwhen the Romans began to aim at univer-gathus. fal Monarchy, and the arts and sciences to travel from Ægypt and Greece to Italy, (which happen'd about the reign of Ptolemy Philopator, A. 3730) Arcagathus, a Greek Physician, went to settle at Rome in the beginning of that King's reign, when Lucius Æmilius and Marcus Livius were Confuls; and was the first of all the Greeks who attempted to introduce their kind of Phyfick into Italy. At first his coming was very agreeable to them, and many marks of diftinction were paid him: but when he came to the cutting and burning part (which every body knows is necessary fometimes) D 4

they chang'd their opinion, and conceiv'd fuch an aversion to him and his profession, that he was forc'd to leave the place. Cato was then at Rome, but too young to be of any consequence; though some have given out fince, that Arcagathus was banish'd in his Consulship. Be this as it will, Cato had, beyond all question, a particular way of thinking in Phylick, very different from that of Arcagathus. Nothing but plain empirical Physick would down with him; with now and then a charm, to reduce a fracture or diflocation: a practice much in vogue among the Africans, and the Pfylli in particular. The Greek Phyfick was of all other his averfion, as appears by his caution to his Son Marcus 2; and indeed if he really imagin'd, that the Greeks intended to poison the Barbarians that way (under which name the Romans were then included) 'tis not at all to be wondred at, that his enmity to all the Greek Physicians should be carried to such a length. But whatever might be the true

Pliny, 1. 29.

reason, certain it is, that their aversion was founded upon something very extroordinary: for, from the time of Arcagathus's banishment to Asclepiades's coming, (which was at least a hundred years) they were without any foreign Physicians. But when he Then under came there (which was in Mithridates and Afclepia-Pompey's time, about the middle of the thirty-ninth century) Phyfick foon appear'd with a quite different countenance. The death of Arcagathus's enemies; the inefficacy of magical charms; the honour that had been lately done the Faculty by Attalus, the last King of Pergamus, who made the Roman People his heir, and was fo great a promoter of medical knowledge, as to cultivate a Physick-garden in his own palace, in order to try experiments upon malefactors for the good of his other subjects; and the reputation Asclepiades was in with Mithridates (who was allow'd by every body to be a good judge in Phyfick) all concurr'd in his favour, and in a short time procur'd him the good opinion of the people; especially when he gave out, that his noless

his defign was to avoid all manner of cruelty, and to cure his Patients cito, tuto, jucunde a, viz. with dispatch, safety, and pleasure; in opposition to the practice of Arcagathus on the one hand, and some of the Physicians then living on the other, who by vomits and purges fatigued their Patients to death, in a manner. But, notwithstanding his pretences, he would sometimes by abstinence, and sometimes by exercise, give them trouble enough; especially at the beginning of a Fever: though in the main he was very industrious to find out all the pleasant and agreeable things for them, that could be thought of; and what with baths, and cradles, and fuspended beds, and the like, amus'd them very artfully, and turn'd the edge of their feverest complaints. But yet there was one thing that Galen and Cælius found great fault with him for, and that was, his ill treatment of the Faculty; a thing, that nothing but the most indecent treatment on their part could excuse. He would often condemn a remedy, that another had prescrib'd, even though it was one he himself was fond of in the like case; but whether from a spirit of contradiction, or a cunning way of management, let others judge. The like has been done fince (and with very good fuccess) by some of his brethren, who have been more remarkable for policy than illnature. Whatever his views were, this is certain, that Phyfick never underwent fo great a change, as it did in his time. He Asclepiareduc'd it all to the knowledge of the cau-vation and ses of diseases, in opposition to observation Philosophy. and experience, and by that means made the whole affair conjectural. His philofophy was of the corpuscular or Epicurean kind; and by the disposition of the pores and the fize of his corpufcles, he could eafily account for every difease and every fymptom. Thus, for instance, if the pores were too small for his largest corpuscles to pass through, quotidians were occasion'd; if for corpuscles of a less size, tertians; and if for those of the least fize, quartans. Thus far there was no harm in what he faid: but when

when he came to reduce this doctrine to practice, then it was he committed many fatal mistakes; a thing very common among His prac- philosophical Physicians. For instance, he tice not al-would bleed in a Pleurisy, because it was attended with pain; but not in a Peripneumony, because there was commonly no pain; and pain, according to him, was occasion'd by the retention of the largest of the small corpuscles, and these corpuscles were made of blood, as the smallest corpuscles of all were made of spirit or beat. For the same reason he would not bleed in a Fever, nor even in a Phrenzy; but yet he made use of gestation in Fevers, and even ardent Fevers, and that from the beginning too; and would fometimes indulge them the use of wine, even to excess; especially in a Phrenzy, in order to bring on fleep; but deny'd them the use of so much as a drop of cold water the two first days, even though they were parch'd up with thirst, for want of it: so that he was not always so pleasant, nor yet so safe, as he undertook to be, though he was much more agreeable

agreeable than the generality of Physicians; his whole practice lying in a fmall compass, confisting chiefly in abstinence, (which generally lasted three days) friction, walking, gestation, bleeding, and wine; of which Cælius has given a very particular account. Purges were his aversion, as being offensive to An enemy the stomach, and a disturber of the humours; to purges. but glisters were in great esteem with him, and so was cold water. In a word, he was generally look'd upon as an excellent Phyfician, and esteem'd by some next to Hippocrates himself, although he was no ways related to the Family, but was of Prusa in Bitbynia. He could by no means agree with Hippocrates about the power of nature, the critical days, and the doctrine of Attraction, (by which one may guess at his real depth) and by way of raillery would fay, that the practice of the Ancients was a meditation upon death. I suppose from their not being in haste to prescribe, till they faw their way clearly. His first profession was Rhetorick, and that not answering, he took to Physick, but was always as remarkable

able afterwards for Eloquence as Physick.

His followers favourite subjest.

There were feveral others of the name. among whom was one furnam'd Pharmacion, who is faid by Galen to have wrote very exactly upon the composition of medicines; a subject that the followers of Asclepiades were afterwards very fond of. Of these the most considerable, next to Themison, was Cassius so remarkably distinguish'd by Celsus a, and who is suppofed to be the author of those ingenious problems in Phyfick now extant in Greek, in which the reader may find (perhaps) as good, and as fatisfactory answers to several difficulties in our way, as we generally meet with in the works of the moderns, notwithstanding the many discoveries that have been made fince.

Of his cotemporaries. It were superfluous to mention the cotemporaries of Asclepiades, because nothing extraordinary was done by them; though many of them had the savour and

friendship

² See his presace, where you will find these words, viz. Ergo etiam ingeniosissimus seculi nostri medicus, quem nuper vidimus, Cassius, Ec.

friendship of the chief men of those days, to countenance and support them, as Ascelepiades had of Mitbridates and Cicero: And so I chuse to pass them all by, to come the sooner to Themison of Laodicea, (who liv'd before and under the reign of Augustus) the most samous of all the Ascelepiadeans, and the sounder of the methodick Sect, so beautifully described by Celsus.

The difference that had subsisted so long the Mebetween the two ancient Sects in Physick, thodists, the Dogmatists and Empiricks, and the in-mison. In a movations that had been made by Asclepia-des in opposition to both of them, gave occasion to the rise of this Sect; a Sect, that from their endeavour to find out an easier method of practice, took upon themselves the name of Methodists. They made no scruple to differ from Asclepiades about the causes of diseases; and were so far from thinking, that the knowledge of these things was the main point, that they look'd upon it as unnecessary, provided they did but observe what was common.

qidibasini

And

And as to the vast number of diseases,

general Classes.

3.11

that had been distinguish'd with so much care by the two former fects, they were for reducing them all to three general Their three classes, viz. the astrict, the lax, and the mix'd; a distinction not altogether so clear, as to admit of no dispute; and so in fact they found it. They were however very exact, as well as the Empiriots, in describing diseases; and agreed with Hippocrates in his distinction of acute and chronick cases, and in the periods belonging to them, viz. the increase, beighth, and decrease; and these distinctions they regarded as a principal point in Physick; regulating the cures according to the genus, let the cause from whence they came, the part that laboured most, the country in which it happen'd, the age of the patient, or the feafon of the year, be what it would: and all this, without any affiftance from Philosophy or even Anatomy. They agreed with the Empiricks too in rejecting every thing that is obscure; and with the Dogmatists in admitting reasoning a little,

so far as it depends upon nothing but what is evident: And therefore what Asclepiades had faid about his pores and his corpuscles, they set no value upon at all, as being dark and intricate, and as likely to be false as true. And yet with all this good Sense, there was one great mistake in their scheme, and that was, the Difregard they shew'd to particular observations, out of an over-fondness for what was general or common. Whereas what is common in diseases, and what is particular in certain cases, is as much the object of a Physician's consideration, one as well as the other, as the knowledge of the kind or species, to which any disease belongs; as Galen has shewn very clearly, in the case of a bite by a mad-dog: where if the wound be treated like a common wound, the patient will foon go mad; but if it be treated as a wound from such a bite, he may perhaps recover. This was in a great measure the plan that Themison went upon; but not till he was in the de-

[.] L. de Sectis. c. 4.

cline of life, as Celfus tells us. And this perhaps is the best reason, why he has left us no scheme of practice agreeable to this fystem; which in all probability he would have done, having been a curious man in many respects, as appears from Calius; who mentions also a very odd Story of him, and that is, that after his recovery from the bite of a mad dog, whenever he attempted to write upon that subject, he always relaps'd a common to farence as we

The condust of

The fect we have been speaking of had Theffalue not been long founded, at least not above fifty years, before Thessalus of Tralles in Lydia became eminent under Nero. He was the first that enlarg'd the system, and had the reputation of bringing it to perfection, and by his own account would have pass'd for the founder of it. His extraction was very mean, and yet by flattery, and cringe, and impudence, he rais'd himself surprisingly. His impudence to the Faculty was fo great (as Galen tells the Story b) that he would often fay his pre-

> C. 3. 1. 3. acutorum. b Book 1. of his metbodus medendi. deceffors COUNT

decessors knew nothing as to the preservation of health, or the cure of diseases; (and this character he gave of them in a letter of his to Nero) but would call himself the conquerour of Physicians; a title that Pliny fays was grav'd upon his monument in the via Appia. The fame author tells us too, that he not only quarrell'd with all the maxims of the ancients, but also treated the physicians themselves with the utmost indecency; delentem cuncta majorum placita, & rabie quadam in omnis ævi medicos perorantem, are the very words of Pliny. But to the Nobility and great men no body was more obsequious than he; so that mean and unmannerly as he was to the Faculty, the figure he made among the others was confiderable. Sometimes he would pretend; that he could teach any body Physick in fix months, he was such a master of it himself; and yet wrote several large volumes that would take up more time to read them over. This, how much foever it may look like Rhodomontade, falls far short of what has been pretended to fince

Phyfick.

fince by a certain great Physician, who resembled Thessalus in more instances than But not to digress. He was some-His way of one. thinkingin thing particular in his way of thinking, as to the cure of diseases. Asclepiades and Themison (till he grew old) were both of opinion, that fickness and health confisted in a certain symmetry or proportion between the pores and the corpuscles, and that an alteration in this or that particular part was all that was wanting: but Thessalus was of opinion the change should be universal, or else it would not do. This change was what was afterwards call'd Metasyncrisis; to which belong'd certain medicines call'd Metasyncritick medicines, the use of which was exceedingly tedious, as may be feen at large in Cælius. Thessalus was the first who introduc'd, or rather who establish'd (for Asclepiades is said to have begun) the three days abstinence, that the Methodists began the cure of all diseases which after-

• C. r. b. r. of chronical diseases.

wards; and with regard to purging, was of Erafistratus or Crysippus's opinion.

Soranus of Ephefus, who liv'd first at Soranus. Alexandria, and afterwards at Rome, under Trajan and Adrian, put the last hand to the Methodick sect, and was the most dexterous Physician of them all. Cælius says, that all he himself has wrote is only a translation of Soranus; but reports of this kind are, we know, not always true. Add to this, that he sometimes speaks of him as a third person. However, as the other's works are lost, we have but this one way of coming at the knowledge of them.

As to this last Author, viz. Cælius Aure-Cœlius Aulianus, he was an African of Sicca, a
town in Numidia, and is thought to have
liv'd about Galen's time, or rather later,
though they don't mention one another.
We are much oblig'd to him for the account he has given at large of the Methodists, as well as the Principles and Practices
of a great many Ancient Physicians, whose
works are now in a great measure lost, (particularly of Diocles, Praxagoras, Erasistra-

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The Methodists way of practice.

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tus, Herophilus, Serapion, Heraclides Tarentinus, Asclepiades, Themison, and Thessalus) unless he did by Soranus, as Justin did by Trogus. He is very exact, and so were all the Methodists, in distinguishing diseases by their figns, and industriously avoids all definitions, and nice enquiries into the caufes of them, or into the parts principally affected, as in a Phrenzy, for instance, studying rather the agreement between them, and the things in common. However, when the cause is evident, or easy to be come at, neither he nor they reject it as useless; as in the case of voiding blood by the mouth, a case that requires a particular confideration, and a different way of proceeding. He and Soranus, and indeed the generality of the Methodists, were very averse to specificks, purges, (except in a Dropsy; though Themison himself made use of purges) sharp glisters, narcoticks, diureticks, and all kind of painful remedies, fuch as cauteries and the like; but made great use of vomiting, bleeding, fomentations, and exercise of all kinds; and were as studious of the patient's ease ease, as Asclepiades, especially with regard to their beds, air and food; receiving this as a maxim among them, " that diseases are to " be got the better of by the simplest things, " and fuch as we use in the time of health; " only diversifying them, as occasion re-" quires ". " The Air, for instance, that we breath continually, they thought was of more importance, or at least of as much, as the food that we take occasionally: and for this reason, no sect was ever more careful to accommodate the air to the circumstances of their Patients, than the Sect we are now speaking of. To make it more or less astringing or relaxing was all that they endeavour'd or wanted, confidering the scheme they went upon of the astrict and lax. And with this view they not only made use of large or small apartments (as occasion requir'd) turn'd to the north, or where the Sun came but feldom, but even grotto's and places underground; not omitting the leaves and branches of trees, or Contestation of the Second

Date 9

Book 2. of chronical diseases, c. 13.

fprinkling cold water upon the floor, and the like, whenever they wanted to cool the air; as in Fevers, Peripneumonies, &c. and fires, fleams of aromaticks, a fouth Sun, and the like, whenever they wanted to warm the air; as in Catarrhs, Dropfies, &c. Nor is this practice of theirs, as uncommon or out-of-the way as it may feem, at all to be defpis'd; fince the reasonableness of it is very obvious, and a very great Physician among the moderns (a man of unquestionable understanding) has approv'd of it himself in some of the like cases, as appears from his own writings 2. Even abstinence itself, which at first they injoin'd for three days, was afterwards moderated and reduc'd to two; at least it was not so strictly insisted on. But indeed the great Remedies, such as bleeding, (which they hardly ever us'd above once, in any one diftemper, except Madness) vomiting, nourishing, &c. were seldom made use of, till the third day; of which, and a vast deal more, you may see

Boerh. Aph. de morbis internis, &c.

a particular account in this author; who, befides the mention of these things, quotes several passages from Hippocrates, that are not now to be found in his works; as in the cure of a Peripneumony, for instance, book the second of acute cases, and in the chapter de cæliacis, &cc.

The Methodists were famous for a long The Metime after, and are made by Sextus Empi-thodists faricus to come neater the Pyrrhonians or ages. Scepticks in Philosophy than the Empiricks. Theodorus Priscianus, who liv'd about three Priscianus. hundred years after Soranus, made bold to break through some of their rules, and though a Methodist, dealt in purges and even specificks, as you may see in his works printed by Aldus among the Latin Physis cians. Moschion too, who liv'd about Ne- Moschion. ro's time, and was the Author of a cutious book upon the diseases of women now extant, was not afraid of specificks; though be was fo far a Methodist in all other respects, that, in conjunction with Calius, he may be faid to compleat the account of the practice of that Sect. And Prosper Alpinus was Pr. Alpifo nus. -iso t

fo pleas'd with their constitution, that he attempted to revive them, as appears by his book de Medicina Methodica, printed in 1611. but a new philosophy was then appearing, and every body more intent upon that than reviving an old Sect, even though it had been fo famous a one: fuch an itch is there in mankind after any thing that is

scheme.

The object: But before we dismiss this subject it may ons of Cel-not be amiss to observe, that Celsus and Galen to their len could not agree with the Methodists in the neglect of external causes, particular circumstances, and the like; but thought that these things as much deserv'd to be taken into confideration, as any other: and for this reason wrote against 'em, especially Galen, whose principal book upon this Head is loft. Nor cou'd the Methodifts recommend themfelves univerfally among their cotemporaries. Some wou'd not give up the Dogmatists, but remain'd attach'd to Hippocrates, Erafistratus, Herophilus, and Asclepiades. Others were for the Empiricks altogether. And among the Methodifts themfelves

Several Sects Sprung out of'em.

felves so many alterations were made, first by Vectius Valens, a famous Phylician in Glaudius's time, who was remarkable for his familiarity with Meffalina, the wife of Claudius; then by Thessalus; and after him by almost every member; that there was very often fuch jangling and disputing, as soon ended in the rife of two new Sects, viz. the Episynthetick and Eclectick. The chief of The Epithe first was Leonides of Alexandria, who and Eclecliv'd not long after Soranus, and wou'd fain tick. have reconcil'd matters, and united the three Sects together, the Dogmatifts, the Empiricks, and the Methodists; and from this defign of his, they were call'd Epifyntheticks. And as to the Ecleticks (of whom the chief was Archigenes of Apamea in Syria, who liv'd, according to Suidas, under Trajan, and dy'd at Rome in his fixty-third year, after having acquitted himfelf very honourably, according to Galen) they truly wou'd not engage on one fide or other, but left 'em to themselves, to settle it as well as they cou'd; and what they cou'd pick out for their purpose from one and another (no matter eavier)

matter of what denomination) that they made the most of. This was the Eclectick scheme, and many a wise man since has come into it.

The Pneumatick

There were however some of a different Sett under way of thinking from every one of these; Athenæus. and as it was become in some degree fashionable to be of one party or other, or else to strike out a new scheme, different from all the rest, another Sect soon sprung up, call'd the Pneumatick, (a kind of Dogmatists) the founder of which was Athenaus of Attalia, who liv'd about Pliny's time. He maintain'd, among other things, that Fire, Air, Water, and Earth are not the true Elements, but that the four cardinal Qualities are; the two first of which he look'd upon as the efficient causes of things; and the other the material. To these he added a fifth, which he call'd spirit, and imagin'd it penetrated all bodies, and kept 'em in their natural state. This was the doctrine of the Stoicks; upon which account Galen call'd the philosopher Chrysppus, the Father of the Pneumatick Sect. But whatever Athenæus's

thenœus's notions were in Philosophy, Aristotle was his Master in Anatomy; and he is
said to have wrote more universally upon
Physick than any of his cotemporaries. His
works are now all lost, except a few chapters in Oribasius, of no consequence at all to
his doctrine or practice '; relating intirely
to the vertues of wheat, bread, barley, the
power of aliments, the purisication of water,
the several kinds of air; and the situation
of places.

His disciples were pretty numerous and His disciples, Heroeminent; among whom was Herodotus, a dotus.
famous practitioner at Rome mention'd by
Galen, and a great zealot in his way. He
was likewise the Author of the Lexicon for
Hippocrates, as some think; while others
attribute it to Herodotus of Lysia, perhaps
without sufficient authority. Archigenes Archigetoo was brought over, after he had been an

Eclectick for some time; but the most eminent of all was Aretœus of Cappadocia, Aretæus.
who was likewise a Metbodist in many re-

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A See book 1. 2. guand 9.

spects (viz. the air, the bed-chamber, and exercise of the patient) and is so well known, and fo highly efteem'd among us to this day, for the politeness of his style, the exactness of his descriptions, and the found ness of his judgment; notwithstanding the badness of his Anatomy, and the falfeness of his Theory. He is the first too of all the Antients, especially if Archigenes be excepted, who made use of Cantharides by way of blifter.

Of Celfus. These were the most eminent among the Sectarifis; but a more eminent Physician than any of them, and yet no Settarift, was A. Cornelius Celfus, a Roman, or as forme think, a Veronese, who liv'd in the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius. He was a Man of univerfal learning, and the most eloquent of all the Latin Physicians. His Style may be look'd upon as the Standard of Roman Eloquence. It was matter of dispute a great while, whether he was a Physician or not, Phiny not allowing him to be one. But as the controversy is now at an end, and almost all parties are agreed, Call.

greed, that he must have been a Physician, and a Practitioner too, to have made fuch judicious remarks in Phylick and Surgery, I shall not concern myself at all with the controversy, but rather observe, that his two great favourites in physick were Hip-Hippocrapocrates and Asclepiades. The first of these he tes and Asclepiawas so conversant with, and took so much des, his from, especially as to the Prognostick part and great fathe Surgery, that he has been often call'd the Latin Hippocrates . But yet he was not fo wrapt up in him, as never to differ from him. The critical days, for instance, His objeche could not come into, as depending, in part of his opinion, too much upon the Pythago- crates's rean Philosophy; nor the manner of bleed-doctrine. ing in Hippocrates's time, as being too feldom and too much limited; nor the manner of purging, as being too rough, too frequent, and injurious to the stomach; though in the main Hippocrates was the

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² Let any man read but the eight first chapters of the second Book, and after that the chirurgical part of his works, especially that part upon dislocations and fractures, (not to mention the diætetical part) and he will soon see, what great use Celsus made of Hippocrates.

And to fome part of Asclepiades.

man, that he esteem'd above all others. As to Asclepiades, Celsus chose to imitate him in the other parts of physick, especially in that which relates to exercise, and often quotes him, as a good and wife phyfician, but not to be follow'd in every thing; in his aversion, for instance, to vomiting and purging, of which he had wrote a great deal in his book de tuenda fanitate, which is now loft. But yet Celfus was fuch an admirer of him and his disciples, as to be thought by some a Methodist; though he was so wise in fact, as to keep clear of all parties, preferring Liberty of opinion to all the advantages the others could propose. In short, he seems to have been a compleat Physician, and a most excellent furgeon, and as such has been always esteem'd by the best Judges. And yet Salmafius (a man of learning) would not allow him to know any thing in Physick: but perhaps he meant any thing exclusive of Hippocrates, not that even this would have done, though we may venture to fay, if Hippocrates had not wrote

Salmasius much mistaken in Celsus. wrote first, Celfus would not have made the figure that he has. There is one thing His pracvery remarkable in this Author; and that fingular, is, that he dealt very little in internal phy- and why. fick, having no great opinion of any thing that offends the Stomach; but made great use of externals, of which he has given us a large variety of forms I mention this, because I think it of much more consequence to know the practice of one wife man, than a hundred others. But then, where the practice of any wife man differs so much from the common practice, one would be glad to know the reason of it; because sometimes even wise men have their failings, and are capable of being prejudic'd in favour of a particular opinion. Celsus founded his general practice in the cure of Fevers upon this maxim, viz. "That the matter which causes a Fe-" ver disperses of itself, when the Patient " takes nothing that is capable of produ-" cing a change a." And upon this per-

See book 3. ch. 4. de curationum diversis generibus.

fuafion, be very rarely admitted of either purges or glysters, but thought, that abstinence at the beginning, drinking but little, sleeping moderately, and nourishment well adapted, might do the business effectually; especially the last, which he look'd upon as the best of all remedies. How far this way of thinking was right, I submit to the reader. Physick is certainly necessary sometimes, and it is almost as great a fault to omit it then, as it is to give it, when there is no occasion. Nourishment too is likewise necessary; and no body, perhaps, knew better how to order it than Celfus. But though the matter above mention'd was the most general one he went by, yet when the body was either too lax, or too astrict, he then had recourse to such remedies, as the Methodists, and other judicious men, had found useful. So that though he did not deal fo freely in internal Physick, as some others did, yet he was by no means averse to it, whenever he thought the Patient wanted it. And this I hope will prevent any censure, that the the character of him already given might, perhaps, have otherwise brought upon him.

Cotemporary with Celsus was Antonius Antonius Musa, the famous Physician of Augustus, Musa. who first introduc'd cold-bathing into Phyfick, or rather establish'd the use of it; (for Asclepiades is said to have recommended it fometimes, and Hippocrates makes frequent mention of ψυχεα λουτεα as well as θερμα λουτεα) and by that means cur'd the Emperor, but by an injudicious use of it kill'd Marcellus, the Emperor's nephew. A fad Ignorance, instance of the great mischief physick does of much in the hands of those, whose education is mischief in inferiour to the profession. Musa was a flave, before this lucky accident rais'd him; and confequently may very well be prefum'd (and that without any reflection) to have been unacquainted with many things, that as a Physician he ought to have known; though he might by chance be acquainted with some things, that men of much greater understanding were strangers to. This is a common case, and must in the

the nature of the thing continue fo. Thus we have, to this day, many mistakes committed, and some of them fatal ones, merely by the ignorance of the undertaker, and not from any fault at all in the medicines themselves: for the same medicines that shall kill one man in the hands of a blockhead, shall fave another in the hands of a Physician; and that from the timing and the dofing it, as it ought to be: two circumstances of great importance in Phyfick. Musa however was rewarded nobly. and permitted to wear a gold-ring (a distinction peculiar to the nobility till then) and had a statue of brass set up for him by the fide of Æsculapius; which was carrying the compliment as far as it could The faculty were honour'd with well go. the ring too upon his account, and were exempted from all taxes for ever; privileges more confiderable than those that Julius Cafar (who was a great friend to Physicians) had honour'd them with. After this he wrote some books upon the compocomposition of medicines, which Galen says were very good, but did nothing else that was extraordinary.

There were several other noted Physi-His cotemcians about the same time, such as C. Valgius, who was the first of all the Romans,
(after Pomponius Lenæus and Cato) that
wrote upon the properties of plants, or their
use in medicine; and is supposed to have had
the care of Augustus before Musa: Æmilius Macer of Verona; Apuleius Celsus of
Centorvi in Sicily; Philo of Tarsus, the Author of the Philonium, and some others;
besides a vast number of slaves, that practised Physick, and got immense fortunes
by it: But as no remarkable alteration was
made by them, to inlarge upon them is
needless.

There was likewise a School of Physi- A school of ans at Rome in that part of the town call'd Physicians at Rome in that part of the town call'd Physicians at Rome. Esquilia, but what they did there, is still a secret. Riches and Honours pour'd in upon them apace, from all quarters; and whether these might not take them off from the severer studies of their profes-

fion,

fion, may very well be question'd. Improvements, we know, seldom come from the Great: and wherever greatness can be had by favour, or fortune, or any other way, independent of merit, such men will not only be above giving themselves trouble, but will also be strongly tempted to make a jest of those who do; the better to keep their own sloth and luxury in countenance. Botany, however, was studied

Improvementsmade in those days.

keep their own floth and luxury in countenance. Botany, however, was studied very much, particularly by Antonius Cafor, who, according to Pliny, was the greatest Botanist of the Age. Natural history was enquir'd into with more than ordinary care, especially by Fabius Papyrius, who liv'd under Tiberius, and for his curious book upon animals, &c. is call'd by Pliny, naturæ rerum peritissimus. The Materia Medica was likewise improv'd, as appears from Scribonius Largus; and prodigious sums got by remedies of one kind or other. But notwithstanding all their searches in this way, when the Mentagra broke out in Claudius's reign,

The Men- Mentagra broke out in Claudius's reign, tagra very puzzling. (a distemper that was brought from Asia

to Rome, and then appear'd for the first time, affecting only men of the first quality, leaving women, ordinary people and flaves, entirely free (as Pliny tells us a) beginning at the chin like a tetter, and fpreading itself all over the the face (except the eyes) and then the neck, the breast, and bands, foon appear'd in branny scales, that were exceedingly offensive, though no ways dangerous) the Physicians were at a great loss to cure it; and so some were sent for from Ægypt, who by the help of Cauteries got the better of it. Not but some of the Roman Physicians, and especially Pamphilus, found out a medicine afterward, that did as well b; for which 'tis almost incredible to think what vast sums were given: Manilius Cornutus, the Governour of Aquitain, having agreed with his Physician for his cure (if Pliny does not mistake c) at the rate of 200 great sesterces, i. e. about 1600 l. ster-

a Book 26. ch. 1.

b See Galen's fifth book of the composition of medicines fecundum locos, i. e. according to places, and particularly that part of the third chapter, where he treats de excoriatoriis Lichenum.

c B. 26. ch. 1.

riaca Andromachi much esteemed.

ling. Nor were these the only profitable re-The The- medies that were then made; the Theriaca Andromachi, that has made fuch a noise ever fince, was made about the same time; as well as feveral other famous ones mention'd at large by Le Clerc p. 3. l. 2. c. 2. As to the Theriaca (which was celebrated in a poem made by Andromachus, and dedicated to Nero) it was form'd upon the plan of Mithridates's, which till then had bore the bell, but after that loft ground a-pace, and none but Andromachus's was talk'd of. It was in such high esteem at that time, as to be prepar'd with the utmost care in the Royal Palace, but had not the name of Theriaca given it till Crito's time, who liv'd under Trajan; the original name being γαληνη i. e. the pacifier or quieter. Pliny was a great enemy to all fuch compositions, and preferr'd simple medicines to them a. Hippocrates himself us'd but little Physick, and that as fimple as possible, relying more upon Diet than Physick: And the Cnidians us'd much less,

B. 22. ch. 24. and b. 24. ch. 1.

as we have seen already, and that from a persuasion, that it is not so much we that cure, as nature, which is in a manner sufficient for every thing, if not impertinently or knavishly interrupted. But the Herophilians dealt much in Physick, compound as well as simple, and have never been at a loss since for some to keep 'em in countenance: so much easier is it to amuse and impose upon the Patient, than to understand the profession thoroughly.

Anatomy was not intirely neglected in Anatomy those days; Marinus who was Quintus's not neglected at that Master, (the same Quintus, who was batime. nish'd in Trajan's time for killing all his Patients, or, (which is more likely) by the calumny of his cotemporaries, as Galen tells us) having wrote admirably well upon the Muscles and some other parts of Anatomy. Rusus Ephesius too, who liv'd under Trajan, turn'd his thoughts this way, as we find by what remains of his works among us; and does not seem to have wanted either judgment or application. To these may be added Galen's Masters, who were

all of 'em men of eminence, in Adrian's

most taken Dioscorides.

time or Trajan's, and especially for Anato-The Mate- my. But the Materia Medica was most tariaMedica, ken care of, and that by Dioscorides of Acare of, by nazarba in Vespasian's time, whose works are now extant and much esteem'd. They had the honour too of being the first of all the Greek Physicians, that Aldus printed, after the taking of Constantinople. But there is a finer copy of 'em in the library at Vienna, which has been there near twelve hundred years, according to Lambechius, all illuminated; and yet was never publish'd; which is something extraordinary. The diffe- Theophrastus indeed, who liv'd four huntween The- dred years before, is much more copious, in the affair of Botany, than our Author; but then he wrote as a Naturalist, and not as a Physician: whereas Dioscorides propos'd to treat of nothing but what he himfelf had had fome experience of, and was then us'd in Phyfick; and that not only with respect to plants, but also animals and minerals. This he executed so well, as to fatisfy Galen, and many other learned men.

rence beophrastus and Diofcorides.

By his account it appears, that falt of vipers Salt of Viwas in use in those days, and mineral wa-then in use. ters both for bathing and drinking, but not iron, or the preparations of it, which have been so frequently order'd since in obstructions and cachexies. 'Tis true, the rust of iron was given then in cases of obstructions', and so it was, if the story may be credited, by Melampus to Iphiclus, a great many ages before c; but the preparations of iron, or of antimony, &c. were not then given.

In the same reign flourish'd that great Pliny. Naturalist, Pliny; who, notwithstanding his employments as a courtier, found time to write the most learned book of the kind in the world, and yet was stifled at Vesuvius before he was sixty. 'Tis surprizing to think what some men have done who seem to have been cut out for originals. The reader need only reslect upon Hippocrates, Aristotle, Pliny, and Galen among the Ancients; and Bacon, Boyle, Newton and Boerhaave among the moderns; and then consi-

Book 2. c. 18. b B. 5. c. 93 Le Clerc p. 28.

The State of PHYSICK

der, if the works of Ages have been comparable to theirs. But this by the by.

Reflection

We have now feen what the state of Phythat is past. fick has been among the Greeks and Romans for near fourteen hundred years; in which space (especially from the time of Pythagoras) 'tis furprifing to think what a variety of opinions have started up, sometimes among the Philosophers, and sometimes among the Physicians, all of 'em calculated to shew the ingenuity of the Authors, rather than to do any real service to Physick. And yet these opinions, trifling and infignificant as they were, had so far got the better of the doctrine of Hippocrates, that the business of observation was quite neglected, and nothing thought of but the explanation of diseases in a philosophical manner. And had it not been for Diocles Caryftius at one time, Serapion at another, and Themison at a third, no body can fay, how far this humour of philosophizing might have been carried: fo bewitching a thing is philosophy ingeniously applied to Physick. The foundation, that was laid by Hippocrates, cou'd never

never have been subverted by it; that we are certain of; because it was laid in nature her self, and so above the reach of humane art to undermine: but then it might have been so cover'd with dust and rubbish, as to have been conceal'd for many Ages, and by that means rendred useless. Happy for us, however, it prov'd other-The many opinions that were started, ferv'd only as so many foils to set the other off; one opinion swallowing up another, and a third a fecond, and so on, while the doctrine of Hippocrates remain'd firm, and in the main uncontestable, varying only with particular circumstances, that the fituation of the place, the diet of the Patient, and the like, made absolutely unavoidable.

Neither did Anatomy, that made so great a figure in Erafistratus and Herophilus's time, seem to do any mighty service; but rather was the occasion of several new and out-of-the-way notions, which laid the foundation of more disputes, to the farther neglect of observation. Nor did the dividing

ding the profession into three distinct branches, or the freer use of internal remedies, turn out fo much to the Physicians honour, but that there feem'd to be a necessity of changing the whole scene, and trying once again what could be done by observation, Histories and Imitation; the ground-work of the Empirical scheme. But alas this was a scheme too laborious for the philosophical heads of those days to comply with; and therefore, tho' a few had refolution enough to fet about it, yet the generality were in another way of thinking: and Asclepiades, we find, no sooner got footing at Rome, but he began to set up for himself in a new way, and with his pores and his corpufcles would have it believ'd, that he knew as much, or more of the matter, than any body before him, not excepting even Hippocrates. The Romans knew no reason to the contrary at that time; and therefore Asclepiades was as much or more to them, than Hippocrates to the Greeks: and even afterwards his reputation was always great among 'em. having been the first of note, who had made a figure

a figure there in Phyfick, and fo was look'd upon as a founder. But how did it turn out at last? I mean the System, that he had laid down. He was scarce cold in his grave, before Themison, a disciple of his, took him all to pieces, and made a jest of his fine scheme, putting no value at all upon that, which he had laid the greatest stress on. Not that Themison himself was able to erect a fystem universally agreeable, tho' it was infinitely beyond what had been taught 'em by the other. Many fects sprung out of the Methodists, as we have seen already, and almost every Physician was of one party or other, except Celsus, who was wife enough to keep clear of all parties. Nor was his conduct in this respect disapprov'd in general: for after his time, the love of party and the invention of Sects feem'd to abate mightily; but yet the business of observation was not carried on in proportion. On the contrary, they ran into medicines universally; and he who could invent the most pompous, was the greatest Physician. Add to this, that as riches encreas'd, honours were coveted

coveted, and titles, never known among Phyficians before, were thought of. Andromachus, who had made himself great by his Theriaca, was made greater still by the title of Archieter; a title that he had the honour to bear first, before it was made com-Anatomy, 'tis true, was not intirely neglected even at that time, tho' it does not appear, that any great advantages attended it; but cold bathing, which was then become familiar, and has ever fince continued with fo much fuccess, had many advantages attending it. Thus the affair stood among the Greeks and Romans to the time of Galen, who, as he was the greatest and the ablest Physician next to Hippocrates, (efpecially if we except Celsus) made the greatest alteration of any that went before him, as we shall see presently.

Of Galen.

Galen was born in Adrian's time A. D.

131, and was about four or five years old, when that Emperor dy'd. He was of Pergamus in Afia minor, the fon of Nico, an honest, rich, and learned man, who spar'd no cost for his son's education. After he had

had gone thro' all the learning of the schools, he turn'd his thoughts to Physick, when he was about seventeen, and, as he himself says, by vertue of a dream; and at nineteen he studied a little while under a disciple of Atheneus; and after that, under several masters, all men of eminence, as appears by his own account up and down his works: besides, he travell'd much, and made a long flay at Alexandria, where all the Sciences then flourish'd; and at the age of twenty eight return'd to Pergamus. His health, which had been very bad till then, grew better after that (the manner of it he tells you himselfb) and remain'd firm and good to the last, tho' he liv'd to be a very old man. He did not appear at Rome till he was thirty two, and then met with great opposition from the Faculty, for pretending to know what they did not or wou'd not know: a pretension, that always did and always will raise a man enemies, how well grounded foever it may

happen

^a See his Epistle to Eugenianus, about the order to be obferv'd in reading his books.

b See his book de curatione per V. S.

happen to be. However he had the good fortune to please many of the principal men (among whom was Sergius Paulus the Prator; Barbarus, uncle to the Emperor Lucius; Boethus, the Conful; and even Severus himself) by his diffections and prædictions, and other parts of his profession; and yet was forc'd to leave the place four or five years after; the clamour of the Phylicians was fo strong against him. But he had not been long in his own country, before he was fent for by Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, and after that never left Rome; at least not for good and all. He was certain-The great- ly the greatest scholar, as well as the best of the age. Physician then living, as appears by his works, which are very learned and numerous; and have been more numerous; there having been once above five-bundred books in physick only, and about half as many more in other Sciences, all of his own writing. In Phyfick he certainly did wonders, and was the great restorer of the Hippocratick Syftem in opposition to the Methodists, who till that time had kept their ground remarkably.

All the Sects were then fubfifting, viz. the All the Dogmatists, the Empiricks, the Methodists, feets subsisthe Episyntheticks, the Eclecticks, and the time. Pneumatists; but the Methodists were in most vogue; divisions among the Dogmatifts running high, some crying up Hippocrates; others, Erafistratus; and others, Asclepiades, &c. However Galen declar'd himself of no party, and yet swallow'd 'em all up afterwards. His favourite view from the first was the establishment of the Hippo-He had study'd Hippocratick doctrine. crates, perhaps, the most of any man living, and founded his way of thinking on what he had met with in those writings, especially with regard to the power of nature, the doctrine of attraction, the figns of diseases, the circumstances of a crisis, &c. but in some of these he was apt to carry his speculations too far, and multiply other things beyond their bearing; his temperaments, for instance, and his pulses: upon which he wou'd reason very freely, but not always very justly, for want of knowing some things better, that nothing but the Anato-

G 2

my and Philosophy of the moderns cou'd discover.

Hisconduct to physicians.

His prac-

As his education and genius had fet him above the level of his brethren, he was fometimes too free with them, and too full of himself; looking with contempt upon what they did, and comparing himself to Trajan in point of usefulness 2. This behaviour naturally created him the ill-will of the Faculty, who in return plagu'd him as much as they cou'd. In his practice he was much influenc'd by two maxims: the one was, " that a disease ought to be got the " better of by that which is contrary to it;" the other, " that nature ought to be pre-" ferv'd by fomething a-kin to her felf:" and both these were taken from Hippocrates, the Physician of all the Ancients that he stuck the closest to, except where the discoveries in physick or pharmacy (and especially pharmacy) feem'd to have taught 'em a nearer way. But in these deviations it too often happen'd, that he went out of the

2 See the book of his methodus med. c. 8.

way for the worfe. The knowledge of the parts, which had been much improv'd fince the time of Hippocrates, as it had taught 'em many things relating to diseases, that it was impossible to come at by conjecture only, fo it generally led 'em into disputes and reasonings, that were of very little use to the Patient. Nor were these confin'd to The Materia Medica was diseases only. to be confider'd in a new light, and the operation of every fimple, and indeed of every compound, to be accounted for, in an entertaining, ingenious manner. Galen, who knew as much of Anatomy and Philosophy as any of his Predecessors or cotemporaries, was far from backward upon this occasion, even tho' he met with so little encouragement from Hippocrates, and the wifer part of the Ancients; but regarding these things as matters of consequence, thought he cou'd never do enough to represent 'em all in the strongest and clearest light; and yet after an infinite deal of labour in this way, and particularly in reasoning upon the virtues of Medicines,

G 3

and

and explaining 'em all by the four cardinal qualities, and their several combinations, tho' he has shewn us indeed the
sineness of his genius, he has at the same
time left this part of physick in a much
worse state than he found it. And yet
he declares elsewhere (viz. where he is
sinding fault with his master Pelops, for
attempting to give a reason for every thing a)
that, if he is not persuaded he knows a thing
himself, he never attempts to convince another: so natural is it for a man, for even
the best of men, to see the failings of another, and to overlook the same failings in
himself.

As to bleeding he practis'd it oftner than Hippocrates, and is the first upon record, who mentions the quantity to be taken away. 'Tisremarkable too, that he bled at all times, by night as well as day, but no children under fourteen, and very seldom old men. And where bleeding and purging were both necessary, he always began with bleeding,

De simplic. medicam. facult. l. 11. No 24. de cancris ustis.

but never us'd Leeches; a manner first introduc'd by Themison, or at least the Methodists. Bathing and friction were in great esteem with him, and so were opiates and anodynes, especially in the cure of fluxes and pains. In a word, his practice agreed in Amaterial the main with that of Hippocrates, but yet difference between the with this difference; the one's was founded prastice of chiefly upon experience and observation, the tes and Gaother's upon reasoning: so that Hippocrates len. has occasion'd very little dispute among phyficians, while Galen has laid a foundation for eternal dispute.

In Anatomy he certainly excell'd all that Galen reever went before him, and diffected men as for Anawell as brutes; but had much fewer oppor-tomy. tunities of humane diffections than the other. Apes were his chief subjects, and these he recommends to his pupils to begin with; that, when an opportunity should offer of a bumane body, they may more readily know how to improve it for the best. Children, that had been expos'd by the barbarity of their parents, or a man basely murder'd in the fields, were in a manner all the

humane

humane subjects that they could now and then lay hold of. As to publick diffections there were none. Skeletons were exceeding scarce, and those that were, were found by accident, in mountains, caves, and the like places, but not prepar'd by any Anatomist: and therefore he advises his pupils to go to Alexandria for that knowledge; Ofteology being taught there from Skeletons. What proficiency he himself made in Anatomy is to be feen at large in his admin. Anatom. and his furprising books de usu partium. But this must always be understood of brutal more than bumane Anatomy; Vefalius having demonstrated, that he describes the parts from Apes, or some other creatures, and not always from men. Be this as it will, he has certainly shewn himself a man of vast application and ingenuity, and worthy of all the honour that has been paid him fince.

The great injury he did Phyfick, and what. But yet there is one thing, that I cann't but take notice of, and that is, the great injury he did Physick in the main, by reafoning so subtilly upon several parts of it, from his elements, cardinal qualities, and

the

the like: an injury, in a man of his sense, hardly ever to be forgiven. I must needs fay, it has often appear'd to me very wonderful, that a man, who understood Hippocrates so well, and had so great a regard for his observations preferable to all other, should ever have been instrumental to establish another doctrine so contrary to the former, and so liable to disputation. No body could ever have a higher opinion of Hippocrates, than Galen had; no body could be more sensible of the usefulness of observation than he; and yet no body has done more to alienate the mind from that noble and important part, to the speculative and uncertain. How much better would it have been, upon all accounts, to have only press'd the study of the best Authors, making them as plain and as agreeable as possible, than, by a new way of thinking, to draw us off from what we ought always to have in view? but alas! to our great misfortune, Galen thought otherwise; (perhaps out of despair of ever coming up to Hippocrates in his own way) and

and the generality of Physicians since, sinding it easier to satisfy themselves from Galen's principles, and to recommend themselves to the publick by his way of writing, than Hippocrates's method of observing, have, in a manner, universally given in to that pernicious scheme; so that for many Ages little or nothing was done for the advancement of physick; the remaining Greek Physicians (except Trallian) and almost all the Arabian Physicians, treading in the same tract that he had mark'd out.

Greek
physicians
after Galen.

As to the Greek Physicians, the most famous are Oribasius, Ætius, Alexander and Paulus; all of them collectors (in a great measure) from the writings of other Physicians, and from Galen in particular; from whom they have given almost every thing that is valuable in Anatomy, Physick and Surgery, (as they then stood) besides some remarks of their own, by no means useless. What these remarks are, and how far they may be trusted to, has been elegantly shewn by a late famous Physician of our own country, Dr. John Freind

Freind a; so that to descend to particulars is needless. Some things however it may not be amis to take notice of from him, viz.

Oribasius was born at Pergamus (the Oribasius place of Galen's nativity) bred up in the school of Zeno the Cyprian, and prov'd the greatest scholar and physician of his time. His attachment to his towns-man was such, especially in the Anatomical part, that he was sometimes call'd Simia Galeni; a circumstance that lets us at once into the manner of his writings, which were very large at first, but are now in a much smaller compass. He practis'd at Constantinople, where he dy'd about the end of the fourth century.

Atius was of Amida in Mesopotamia, Atius. and brought up at Alexandria. He practis'd Surgery himself, and gives some account of almost every operation, except fractures and dislocations. He is a clearer and fuller writer than Oribasius, but inferiour to Paulus (in the opinion of Fab. ab

^{*} See his history of Physick.

Aquapendente) and excels even Celsus in cases of the Eyes. In a word, he was a good Practitioner in general, but fometimes very tedious, as in the use of his remedies for the Gout for instance; and sometimes very troublesome, not to say painful, as in the cure of an inveterate Afthma and Empyema; for which he would order the body to be cauteris'd in so many places, that it was cover'd almost all over with eschars. He was a great lover of outward applications, and far from a bad reafoner upon the virtues of fome of them. The spells and charms, which were so much in vogue among the Ægyptians (together with feveral things relating to their pharmacy) he has given some accounts of; and is the first of all the Greek Physicians, among the Christians, who mentions them. He has likewise preserv'd several other fragments of antiquity, that are no where else to be met with; and liv'd about the end of the fifth century.

Alexander was born at Tralles, a famous city of Lydia (the place of Thessalus's lus's nativity) where the Greek tongue was Alexanspoke in perfection. He liv'd about the time of Ætius, whom he quotes; and was in great esteem in the reign of Justinian. His father (who was a Phyfician) had the first care of his education, and after that he travell'd much, and was highly esteem'd at Rome, and wherever he went. He had a different way of thinking from Ætius or Oribafius, and has more the air of an original writer than they. His works are fo methodical (tho' he was no Methodist in opinion) that he may very well be look'd upon (together with Aretæus) as the most valuable author fince Hippocrates's time. The diagnostick part is admirable, and efpecially where he distinguishes between two distempers, that have a near resemblance to one another, as a pleurify and inflammation of the liver; the stone and the cholick, and the like; in which both Ætius and Oribasius are very deficient. He is likewise very punctual in relating the virtues of medicines, and the time and manner of using them; but is somewhat

too credulous in this affair, and not intirely free from superstition. But yet his method of cure is, generally speaking, wisely adapted to the circumstances of the case; and whatever he attempted to reason upon, as for instance upon bleeding in a Quincy, he succeeded in it to a wonder. This perhaps was owing to his not writing till he was very old, and so had had great experience. Not that experience always goes with age. A man may live to a hundred, and know very little of the matter, if he has not taken care to make wife and regular observations, as he went along. Tumultuary observations are good for nothing, and are so far from informing us, that they rather confound us.

Jacobus Pfychreftus. Cotemporary with Alexander was Jacobus Psychrestus, Archiater to Leo the Great, a very ingenious and learned Physician, and so belov'd by the Emperor and the people, that the Senate set up a Statue for him in the baths of Zeuxippus built by Severus; and there was another for him at Athens. He was so accurate an observer (which is

very

very remarkable for those days) that it is said of him (among other things) his Prognosticks never sail'd. In his practice he frequently order'd Glisters and Suppositories; in his Surgery seldom us'd either fire or the knife; and was no friend to bleeding. They add too, that his humanity was not less remarkable than his ingenuity; and from his eagerness to improve his art, the soul of Esculapius was suppos'd to be transfus'd into him.

As to Paulus, the fourth and last of the Paulus. Greek Physicians, he liv'd in the feventh Century, and studied at Alexandria, before Amrou plunder'd it. Alexander was his favourite Author, from whom he transcribes a great deal, not the sense only, but the words. In his descriptions he is short and full, and seems to be the first upon record who profess'd midwifry. As to the operations in Surgery, he is by far the the compleatest writer among the Ancients,

² Prideaux in his connection part 2. b. 1. p. 23. calls him

b See his fixth book.

and to be preferr'd to Celsus in some re-Fabricius ab Aquap. had fo high spects. an opinion of him, as to lay down every where the doctrine of Celsus and Paulus for his text; and his inferences and observations confift chiefly in explaining these two writers.

The Greek claffical physicians.

These four (for Psycrestus is mention'd merely for his amiable character) are call'd by our learned countryman, the Greek clasfical physicians, a name that fuits 'em very well, confidering their style, their judgment and ingenuity. As to the other Greek physicians of a lower rank, and a later date, the chasm that there is of 500 years in the Greek history, viz. from 560. to the reign of Isaac Comnenus in 1060. has left us very few of any note, but Palladius the the Sophist. Sophist, who was brought up at Alexan-

lus.

Palladius

dria, and wrote a commentary upon Hip-Theophi- pocrates; and Theophilus, who wrote ex professo upon Urine, and is the first author of the kind now extant. He has handled his fubject very ingeniously, but was much beholden to Hippocrates and Galen. He

wrote

wrote in the like manner upon the faces; and also upon Anatomy.

But the greatest of all the inferiour Greeks Actuarius. is Actuarius of Constantinople, who, though he wrote chiefly from Galen, Ætsus, and Paulus, and mentions no distemper but what is treated of by the Greeks, has many curious observations of his own, especially upon the urine and the pulse, from which together he us'd to take his indications. He wrote seven ingenious discourses upon the urine, and in a manner exhausted the subject. He is the first of all the Greek Writers, who has taken any notice of the milder purges, fuch as Cassia, Manna, Senna, and the like; and was no stranger to some of the Arabian writers. from whom 'tis very probable that he came to the knowledge of these medicines. In his descriptions he is very curious; in his philosophy, a Galenist and Aristotelian; and in his style, by no means impure, having intermix'd a great deal of the old Attick; especially in his philosophical works.

H

SAMULTION.

SECT.

BRISCI CALOURING RES

SECT. III.

Of the State of Physick among the Arabians, &c. to the Restauration of Learning.

The state of Physick among the Arabians.

THIS was the state of Physick among the Greeks and Romans. We are now to take a view of it among the Arabians; a people rude and barbarous, who first met with the Greek writers at Alexandria, when it was taken by Amrou in the year 640, and were then such enemies to Learning, that they destroy'd all they could lay their hands upon. The famous library was destroy'd in the basest manner imaginable. Instead of burning the MSS all together, they were dispers'd among the Bagnio's, which at that time amounted to 4000, and yet they were six months in consuming

confuming them. Hardly any escap'd, but what were preserv'd by a few private hands, or what they fav'd themselves for their own particular Use, among which the physical MSS were the principal. This, by the by, was not the Ptoleman library, that confilted of so many hundred thoufand volumes, and had cost such an immense sum in collecting; but the library founded by Cleopatra, after the greatest part of the other had been unfortunately burnt in the wars between Cæfar and Pompey: And as Attalus the King of Pergamus's eurious collection, and the collection of several private persons, had been procur'd by Cleopatra and her successors, (of whom it may be truly faid that they spar'd no cost nor pains to supply the loss of the first) this new library was then the compleatest, and most valuable in all the world. The Schools of Medicine were kept up for fome time after, but in the year 721 were remov'd to Antioch and Harran; though even this did not entirely destroy medical knowledge there. It was still cultivated as well as it H 2 could,

could, but never made any great figure afterwards. attendant as the was the his and

The tran-Rat ons bozu manag'd. The first version of the Greek Authors was into Syriack, the Syrians being better scholars than the Arabians; and from the Syriack they were afterward translated into And here it is to be noted once Arabick. for all, that whatever the Arabians tranflated or imitated, was rather made worfe by them .

Their Phy- As to their Physicians, they follow'd Hipsicians con pocrates and Galen in all the Theory of difeducation. eases, and now and then put in an idle fiction of their own; but have added very little to fignify, notwithstanding all their pretenfions and appearances. Their education was in the East, where the Hippocratick doctrine was well known, the Emperor Aurelianus having fent some Greek Physicians there, as a compliment to his daughter, who was married to Sapores King of Persia, and resided at Nisabur, the Capital of Chorasan.

^{*} See Freind's History, Vol. II. p 20.

The oldest as well as the fullest and best Haly Abaccount we have of the ancient Arabick bas, the oldest and Phyfick, and the writers of that nation, is best auleft us by Haly Abbas, who about the thor. year 980 wrote his Almaleci or royal work, which he defign'd as a compleat fystem of phyfick; undertaking by it to fupply the defects of others, and specifying where Hippocrates, Galen, Oribafius, and Paulus had fail'd. By him we learn, that the original works of Mesue are loft; and that the works which we now have under the name of Serapion, are genuine, and may be reckon'd as the first book of physick in Arabick, Mesue's being very probably wrote in Syriack.

Rhazes, who was born at Rhei, a City Rhazes, of the Persian Irack, (or rather perhaps in the principal Physithe province of Chorasan) and dy'd in 932, cian. is the chief, and one of the oldest of the Arabian Authors; out of whom the rest; even Avicenna himself, compos'd their books. He design'd his Continent (which is taken chiefly from Ætius and Paulus) as a whole body of Physick, as far back as Hip-

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pocrate s

pocrates, but it is very immethodical; tho' he was a man of parts and learning for his time, as appears from his treatife of the small-pox (a disease that first appear'd in Agypt, near eleven hundred years ago, vizin the time of Omar, Mahomet's successor, and was first describ'd by Rhazes, and with that exactness, as to have little or nothing added to it for five hundred years) his book upon the diseases of children (the first of the kind too) his remarks upon a good physician and a quack; and the like. In short he was so famous among the Arabians, as to be call'd by 'em their Galen; and yet his Compendium of physick, that was made out of his large work (the Continent) and was much esteem'd for some hundred years, comes far short of the Greek Authors, tho' it is taken in a great measure from them. He is suppos'd to have had great skill in Alchymy, and is the first physician who mentions any thing of Chymistry.

Avicenna.

Avicenna, their next famous writer, was born in Bochara, in Chorasan, about nine bundred and eighty, and dy'd about siftyeight. eight. He was a man of extraordinary parts, but so addicted to pleasure, that it became a proverb at Ispahan (the place of his residence) "that all his philosophy cou'd not "make him moral, nor all his physick heal-"thy". His works, which were very famous till the restauration of learning, were call'd by him his Canon, and taken almost intirely from Galen, Rhazes, and Haly Abbas, but yet inferiour to Abbas's.

Avenzohar, another famous Arabian, Avenzopractis'd at Seville in Andalusia, the seat har then of the Mahometan Chaliph, and liv'd hearty and strong to a hundred and thirty-sive. He was a man of great business and observation, and has taken notice of several things, that had not been mention'd before, viz. an inflammation or abscess in the mediastinum; an abscess in the Pericardium; and a dropsy of the heart. He was an enemy to all those who pretended to square medicines to the constitution of their Patients, as Alkindus did; and not quite free from superstition in other things. Extracting the stone for instance, he thought was an inde-

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cent and immodest thing, and as such shou'd not be attempted, at least by a religious man. He applied himself much to Pharmacy, and was particularly fond of black Hellebore, as a purge; and is the first phyfical Author, that mentions Bezoar; three barley-corns of which he order'd in a Jaundice, suppos'd to be occasion'd by poison. He applied himself too to Surgery, and treats particularly of diflocations and fractures, not without an apology for meddling with all the three branches, which were then divided as before.

Averrhoes. Averrhoes, call'd the commentator, (from writing so much upon Aristotle) was born at Corduba, and dy'd at Marocco. He was acquainted with Avenzobar's son, and so cou'd not live long after him. His Compendium of physick is taken from others, with very little variation or addition, but has more of the Aristotelian philosophy mix'd with it than the other Arabians. His Anatomy is intirely Galen's; his practice has very little new in it, nor does he feem to have had much share of it.

After

After him came Alfaharavius, who is Alfaharafuppos'd to be the fame with Albucafis, or bucafis.
at least to have taken all his Surgery from him. He is reckon'd to have liv'd about the twelfth century from his description of the Turkish arrows, and is mention'd by none of the Arabians. His method of Practice, which is divided into thirty-two treatises, is taken mostly from Rhazes. His Surgery is very large and very exact; and with respect to lithotomy, he describes the very same place of section, that Frere Jacques and M. Rau chose to cut in. He had a great opinion of the Cautery, and was by much the hardiest operator of all that went before him.

Physick thus mangled and disjointed by Physickimthe Arabians in general, was yet improv'd prov'd by
by 'em in some respects. Chymistry, for respects.
instance, was first introdu'd into physick by
their means. Botany and the Materia Medica were considerably enlarg'd, and Pharmacy much improv'd. Anatomy indeed
stood as it was; but Surgery was much the
better for Albucasis. But considering the
advantages they had (and that for so maCenturies)

Centuries) the improvements they made were very few. Nor indeed was there any thing done remarkable, till the Greek MSS were brought from Constantinople.

The Collernum, ded, and what.

'Tis true there were Hebrew, Arabick, lege of Sa- and Latin Professors of Physick at Salerwhen four num in the middle of the seventh Century, and in eight hundred and two Charles the Great founded a College there (the first of the kind then in Europe) but what came of it? No body can fay, Phyfick was much the better for it, when he confiders the Schola Salernitana, that was compil'd foon after eleven bundred, and infcrib'd in the name of the whole community to Robert Duke of Normandy, fon of our William the Conquerour, who was wounded in the boly war, and stopp'd at Salernum for advice in his way home. That book shews you the Genius of the School, even tho' it had been founded fo long. What it was after Constantine the African's time (who belong'd to tine, a fa- it about the end of that Century) it is not ber of it. easy to say. He was a great compiler in physick, chiefly from H. Abbas, and seems

to be

to be the first, who introduc'd either the Greek or Arabick physick into Italy. However their progress does not appear to have been very considerable; because the Jews The Jews (who had taken care to make themselves the greatest physicians masters of the Arabick language) were the then. physicians most talk'd of in those days, and were got into almost all the Courts in Christendom. They had a sort of University of their own at Sora in Asia about the year two bundred, and have been remarkable for dealing pretty much in physick ever since.

There were likewise several great Schools Schools of physick in Spain, in Avenzobar's time, physick in spain, particularly one at Toledo, the professors of which he styles wise men; but it does not appear, that any thing extraordinary was done by 'em. The same rout was pursu'd, and learned commentaries handed about upon this or that Author, just as the humour took 'em, without ever thinking of growing wifer, or going out of the way, for the sake of improvement.

The

among the Arabians

The University of Monpelier was like-Inother at Monpelier. wife in a flourishing state about the same time, especially in the twelfth Century, but yet nothing new was thought of. The Arabian doctrine still prevail'd, and he was counted the best physician, who cou'd write the finest commentary.

phyfick after the twelfth century.

The flate of After the twelfth century indeed, Physick began to decline in Asia, and to flourish a little more in Europe. Chymistry was cultivated very much in England by Roger Bacon (commonly call'd Fryar Bacon, the ornament of his age and nation) who was born at or near Ilchester in 1214. (a bundred years after Averrhoes, or thereabouts) and dy'd in 1292. Arnoldus de villa nova, a Milanese (the famous commentator upon the Schola Salernitana, and an acquaintance of Raymond Lully's) was a great cultivator of it too. But still the Physicians retain'd a great deal of the old jargon, and were forc'd to make use of many tricks and stra-

John of Gaddefden's craft tagems, to conceal their ignorance. Thus and ignofor instance, John of Gaddesden (a famous rance. English ins

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English physician, who took his degree at Oxford in 1320) when he was fent for to Court to take care of K. Edward's fon, who was ill of the small-pox, order'd the Prince to be wrapt up in scarlet, and every thing about the bed to be of that colour; that by the pompousness of appearances, he might amuse the court, and pass among 'em for a physician of great penetration. It was frequent with him to use such stratagems, when he cou'd; and yet, as ridiculous as this may feem, he was the first physician in England who was employ'd at Court, the Royal physicians having all been foreigners before; and was univerfally esteem'd as a man of parts and learning: to fuch a wretched pass was Physick then brought.

Surgery indeed had far'd better for some The flate of time. Albucasis was a great master of it, Surgery. and his works were foon brought into Italy. Paulus too and Ætius (but especially Paulus) were famous for it universally. And afterwards Placentinus, otherwise call'd Gul. de Saliceto (who was the first practical engi han writer that prescrib'd any chymical remedies,

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and dy'd about 1280.) grew famous for it; and fo did Lanfranc; but especially Guido de Cauliaco, who did not live long after, and is compar'd to Hippocrates by Fallopius, no ill judge. Guido was professor at Monpelier, and afterwards physician to Pope Clement Vth, and his successor. He has given us an account of the great plague in 1348, that travell'd all the world over, and destroy'd a fourth of mankind. He was at Avignon himself at that time. Paulus and Albucasis are his favourites; but Celsus a perfect stranger to him.

Anatomy

Anatomy began to be look'd into by Munreviv'd by dinus, a Milanese, who in 1315. compil'd a regular body of that science; which, the a very mean performance, was in so much vogue till the restauration of learning, that the Statutes of Padua allow'd of no other system to be taught in their Schools.

But among all the physicians, there was Valescus ta, the best hardly one, except Valescus de Taranta, who wrote from experience and not from observer. books only. He understood no Greek, and wrote but ill Latin; but having been a 1312

practi-

practitioner for thirty-six years together at Monpelier, and Archiater to Charles VIth about the year 1400, made a great many good observations which are now in being.

About the same time they began to make Mineral some curious enquiries into the nature of waters enquired waters, especially those of the bot kind; and Michael Savanorola, a Paduan of a noble family, wrote a treatise between 1440 and 1450 upon all the bot baths then known in Italy; besides a great deal upon Fevers.



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SECT. IV.

Of the state of Physick from the Restauration of Learning in 1453, to the present times.

This was the state of Physick, after the Library of Alexandria was destroy'd. The masculine physick of the Greeks was so far overpower'd by the Arabians, that even the language, in which those noble records were wrote, was almost intirely lost: hardly any body knew, for many ages together, what they really contain'd, exclusive of what they cou'd gather from the dull and tedious writings of the others; a set of conceited men, who were so far from improving what they met with among the ancients, that, as has been already observ'd, both their translations and commentaries were much worse than the originals. And

And in this wretched and despicable condition the affair stood, from the seventh century to the sisteenth; scarce any physicians attempting to make observations themselves, or to distinguish themselves from the common herd, unless by trick and stratagem at one time, or by tiresome explanations of crude and trisling Authors at another.

But, before the expiration of this centu-Constantiry, several things concurr'd to introduce nopletalen in 1453. the ancient Learning among us, that has made so fine an appearance since. Constantinople was taken in the year 1453, and the Greek manuscripts, that were found there, were many of 'em brought into Europe at that time by Theodore Gaza, and some other learned men. The noble art of Prin-Printing ting was found out about the same time, found out which foon dispers'd these inestimable trea-same time. fures all over Europe; the learned men, that then were, applying themselves this way, for at least fifty years, with all the diligence imaginable; supported by the generosity of feveral Princes, those of the Houses of Medicis and France in particular. Not that the

the generofity of our K. Henry VIIIth is to be forgot, who, by the interest of that great Patron of Learning, Cardinal Woolfey, founded the College of Physicians in London some time after, of which so many famous men have been members fince; but none more famous, except Harvey, than Linacre, by whose munificence and sollicitation the Cardinal was engag'd to stir in the affair, and the College afterwards supported and endow'd.

The progress of Learning, in spite of the Lues venerea.

Learning thus begun by private men, and powerfully supported by Princes, advanc'd apace in spite of all difficulties. Nor cou'd even the Lues venerea itself hinder the progress of it; tho' it happen'd to break out in Italy in the year 1492, and at the fiege of Naples in 1494 was communicated to all Europe, making terrible havock for a long time. On the contrary it rather help'd to advance the grand work, as it excited an infatiable defire to find out the cause, if posfible; or at least to know, whether the An-Anatomy cients had taken any notice of it. Anatomy was reviv'd upon it immediately by Ja-

cobus

Carpus.

cobus Carpus, a famous surgeon of Bolognia, in hopes of sinding out something that might give light into this new disease. And with this view he is said to have dissected above a hundred bodies himself, but was forc'd to leave the place afterwards, for having dissected (as his enemies gave out) two Spaniards alive. However, if he fail'd in his enquiries this way, he was more successful another; and by a mercurial ointment, that he then hit upon, soon became master of a vast fortune. Fallopius says, sifty thousand ducats of gold: and no wonder.

Anatomy thus reviv'd was continu'd by Continu'a several able hands, till at last it came to and almost perfected by Vesalius, who, before the last century but Vesalius, one, had brought it almost to a degree of perfection. And soon after, Columbus and Eustachius (not to mention any more) carried it as far as it cou'd well be carried, without the discovery of the Circulation; a discovery reserv'd for the honour of our own country-man, Harvey.

While Anatomy was thus improving, the The Greek Greek physicians were much studied, by physicians much studied.

I 2 means died.

means of the Venetian, the Roman, and the Paris editions; and 'tis furprifing to think what advances were made, first by the Italians, and then the French, and that in the compass of a few years, to establish Physick upon a right foot, and free it at once from all the jargon and nonfense of the schools. M. F. Calvus, Mercurialis, Martianus, and fome others among the Italians; Fernelius, Duretus, Jacotius, Ballonius, and some others among the French, will ever be remember'd with honour for their fervices of this kind. To these I wish I cou'd add fome of my own country-men, that we might come in for part of the honour due upon this occasion: but except Linacre, Caius, and the late Dr. Freind, and perhaps one or two more, we have as little to boast of, for publishing the writings of the Ancients, or attempting to make 'em easy and useful to the moderns, as any nation in Europe, especially in the medical way; and yet, which is the more furprifing, we have not wanted men of letters and ingenuity any more than our neighbours. But the misfortune

misfortune is, our learning and ingenuity have lain another way; in philosophy, for instance, mathematicks, and the mechanical arts, rather than Physick; and this seems to be the reason, why, while other arts have been vastly improv'd by us, fince the restauration of learning, physick alone has been but little improv'd, in comparison.

But to proceed. While matters were Chymistry going on in this chanel, and a folid foun-much adation was laying for the advancement of Medical knowledge among us, (first by publishing the genuine works of the ancient Greek physicians, with judicious and learned commentaries; and then by the furprizing anatomical discoveries of the moderns) Chymistry, that is capable of being made so ferviceable to physick, was shamefully abus'd by a fet of ignorant enthusiastical men, with Paracelsus at the head of 'em, and had like to have overturn'd the whole scheme. This however was happily prevented, partly by the disappointments that frequently But kept from doing happen'd among those who put the greatest the intenconfidence in 'em; and partly by the con-ded mif-

The discovery and advantage culation.

duct of several famous men at that time. who made it evident to demonstration, that Arts and Sciences are not to be improv'd but by judicious experiments and fair conclusions, let pretenders say what they will to the contrary. This doctrine was foon after confirm'd by the great discovery of the Circuof the Cir lation; a discovery, that let in more light upon the animal acconomy in one day, than whole Ages were capable of before. All the disputes about bleeding (some of which ran very high, especially in the beginning of the fifteenth century) and in short all the Theories of the Ancients were destroy'd in a manner at once, by this fingle discovery. And as Gaffendus well observ'd (after he had been convinc'd by Pecquet) the Circulation of the Blood and the Ductus Thoracicus are the two Poles, upon which all phyfick for the future ought to turn. To these great discoveries we must not omit to add another, which indeed in point of time is something older than Harvey's, but in point of usefulness little inferiour, if at all, to any of the foregoing.

Medicina Statica, another no-He discovery.

That

That the whole body is capable of imbibing as well as of discharging, or that it is (to use the words of the Ancients) ERTIVOOV and εισπνοον, i. e. exspiring and inspiring, is a doctrine as old as any records in physick '. And that health depends upon some kind of proportion between what we take in at one time, and what we let out at another, is likewise a doctrine of as great antiquity. But how the evacuations were made, or what proportion they bore to one another, and to the food we live upon, was very imperfectly understood, till a famous Italian physician, about the beginning of the last century, try'd many new and curious experiments upon himself, in order to come at the true state of this affair. The result of his experiments we now have in that fmall but excellent book, well known by the name of Medicina Statica Sanctorii; a book. that for its real usefulness may, perhaps, challenge any book in physick now extant. The advan-The doctrine of perspiration, sensible and tages of it.

3 See Hip. 1. 6. Epid. Sect. vi. Aph. 1.

insensible,

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insensible, the effects of different airs and waters, meats and drinks, sleep and watching, exercise and rest, venery and the passions, are all so ingeniously consider'd here, and that not from any Theory, or philosophical speculation, but from regular and judicious experiments, made, for greater exactness, by weight and measure, (the Author weighing himself, and every thing he either eat or drank or discharg'd, from day to day, in a chair made for that purpose, till the course of the experiments was at an end) that we are now much abler to give directions in every one of these cases, than any of the physicians who liv'd before Sanc-And 'tis furprifing to think, what a vast influence these things have upon a human body, fometimes in producing, and fometimes in preventing or removing dif-This discovery therefore is to be eases. look'd upon as one of the greatest that ever was made, and must in the nature of it be one of the most useful and most lasting. No wonder then that the physicians of those fon for ex- days shou'd have entertain'd hopes of seeing

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forward.

their Art in a state of perfection. The Learning of the Greeks and Romans was become familiar; Anatomy was vastly improv'd; Chymistry much enlarg'd, and in great esteem; Experiments frequent and judicious; and at last, to crown all, the Circulation prov'd to demonstration. What is it, under all these circumstances, that might not have been expected? all was plain and evident, without any pompous, idle Theories, to amuse and mislead the reader; so that if they expected to fee the Art brought to its utmost perfection, I don't see how they can be charg'd with an unreasonable expectation. For the way they were then in, well purfued, wou'd certainly have done the business. Add to this, that the philosopby then in fashion was of a different stamp from that of the Ancients, and much more to be depended on, as it was the refult of plain and evident experiments, and not the chimæra's of an inventive head: and confequently, if any good was to be expected from that quarter, there was more reason to expect it then than ever. The prospect forward

ward was as promising too, as the discove-All the world was full of ries before 'em. curiofity; Arts and Sciences flourishing apace; and every thing, that had but the lest tendency to promote useful knowledge, encourag'd and pursu'd with uncommon ardour and ingenuity; and that not only by fingle persons, but also by Societies of learned men. The physicians were far from being backward on this occasion, and especially the Italians, who were very industrious to improve their Art by these new discoveries; and accordingly made themselves masters of all the learning then in fashion, and especially the mathematical part, the better to judge, and apply it right to phy-Great dif fick. But whether the Art is too difficult appointments, and and extensive for the humane mind intirely to comprehend; or whether the knowledge of the Circulation, and some other things lately discover'd, is not of so much importance as was at first apprehended; so it has fallen out, that we are but little the better for these discoveries, and in some degree worse. The minds of physicians have taken

why.

ken a quite different turn, and been almost intirely employ'd ever fince with Diagrams and Theories, and a thousand things of that kind (all of 'em pretty amusements in their feason) to the neglect of other matters really important. The body has been furvey'd inch by inch, and the suppos'd force of every fibre computed with a shew of surprifing exactness. The fluids have been examin'd by all the ways that cou'd be thought of; and feveral ingenious books wrote, to shew their nature, their changes, and the consequences. Nay, so extremely nice have the enquiries of this kind been, that we are now fo happy as to be able to talk as much of animal spirits, which we have not feen, as of any other matters, which we have feen. In a word, the speculative part of physick, which the wifest of the Ancients set but little value on, has been vastly improv'd within a century: and, to fay the truth, by the fagacity and industry of the moderns, we have in many respects the advantage of the ancients; especially in Anatomy; so far at least, as the knowledge

ament the Moderns

ledge of the fituation, the structure, and the use of the parts, is a real advantage in phyfick. These things have been inquir'd into with more than ordinary care and application; particularly by the late famous profeffor Ruysch of Amsterdam, whose preparations and injections have let us more into the true structure of the parts than all the books of Anatomy before. But yet the business is far from done. Diseases are known much less than might reasonably be expec-The chief ted. The study of the Ancients has given reasons of way, in a great measure, to the philosophy

pointments. of the moderns: and, tho' we have Theories in abundance, and treatifes without number; yet, to our great misfortune, we can find but little in 'em to be depended on. Ferments, and Lentors, and Salts of various kinds have been the common subjects; and all of 'em under the management of their feveral patrons. This has been our amusement, for the most part, fince the grand discoveries were made. Almost every phyfician has had a fystem of his own, with a mixture of more or less of his own country's try's philosophy in it: and this seems to be the reason, why so many unaccountable things have been said and unsaid by physicians of every nation in Europe; and that not by the ignorant and trisling part of them, but by such as don't seem to have wanted either sense or learning in every thing else but Physick.

As to the writers of observations (which The conduct are very few, in comparison) they, for the of the obsermost part, have trusted to their memories ters. for almost all the cases they have left us: a very fallacious way of instructing, and Baglivi's by no means proper for a physician. Bag-and conlivi (a famous practitioner at Rome within dust. these thirty years) was so sensible of this, and of the tendency of the course physicians were then in, that he wrote a treatife on purpose to shew the usefulness and necessity of regular and judicious observations, preferable to any thing else in Physick: and has laid down a great many ingenious rules for that purpose, both for private persons and publick focieties. But I'm afraid the method he prescribes will never be made use of. A work of this kind shou'd be con-'mwo and ho stal to around to attriv'd.

triv'd as simple as possible, or else the Faculty will never come into it. And for this reason I wou'd always prefer a tolerable good scheme, that cou'd be easily made use of, before a compleat one, that is more No body doubts but that many difficult. cases in Hippocrates might be better told than they are; but yet I wou'd be glad to fee an Author who can write as well in the main now. When that is done, we may very well hope for fomething farther, and not before. Even Baglivi himself, who cou'd prescribe so well to others, cou'd not always follow his own prescription, and has given us a more imperfect account of some things than might have been expected, even from a plan less perfect. This however is to be imputed to want of leisure and a longer life, rather than want of genius or application in him: for, fince the days of Hippocrates, no man feems to have been more fagacious, or better acquainted with the power and course of nature in the cure of diseases than he, altho' he dy'd before he was forty. And indeed one may

venture to fay, from what he has left behind him, that had he liv'd but twenty or thirty years longer, he wou'd have been as great a physician, as ever the world has known; fo far I mean, as the art of knowing how to cure diseases in the plainest, quickest, and most natural way, can make a physician great. Not but he had cut himfelf out work, that wou'd perhaps have interfer'd a little with the business of observation (which was all along his darling study, and in which he infinitely excell'd all the moderns) as appears by what he hints at more than once in his books de fibra motrice & morbosa. However, as he did not live to compleat his defigns, and has left behind him proofs enow of his great genius, it is but reasonable to think, that whatever else he might have given in to, the main point in view wou'd always have been the improvement of physick upon the foot of experiment and observation. And indeed he Observawho is cut out for observation, and gives tion, talk himself up to it as he ought, will always one man. find employment enough in this way, with-

out medling with other things of less importance. I wou'd not be understood, as if I meant, that a physician shou'd turn his back upon the discoveries of the moderns. Far from it. He, who is a stranger to these discoveries, will make but a poor figure in phyfick; and fo will he, who looks upon 'em as the main things. For, as Celsus finely observes, " quanquam multa fint ad " ipsas artes proprie non pertinentia, tamen " eas adjuvant, excitando artificis ingenium. "Itaque ista quoque naturæ rerum con-" templatio, quamvis non faciat medicum, " aptiorem tamen medicinæ reddit." i. e. tho' there are many things that don't properly belong to the arts themselves, yet they are of service to 'em, as affistants and quickners of the artist. And so the study of natural philosophy, tho' it cann't make a man a phyfician, will however make him a better physician. And this, no doubt of it, is true. But then it is equally true, that regular and judicious observations have done

[·] See his preface.

more good in Phyfick than all the Theories and all the discoveries, that have ever been yet found out. What may be done hereafter by these discoveries is another question; the foundation having been laid but lately, and no body has built upon it to fignify, except the ornament of his age and country, Hermannus Boerhaave. He indeed Boerhaave has wifely applied these noble discoveries; recommenand from a variety of chymical, mechanical, and anatomical experiments, and a compleat knowledge of the Ancients, has form'd the concisest and best System, that has ever yet appear'd: a System, free from all manner of trumpery, and that very probably will stand the test of all succeeding ages. This is the fervice that great man has done us, and by it has given us a much greater advantage over all the Ancients, than either the discoveries in Anatomy or Philosophy were able to give us before. We have now a fair prospect of seeing Physick improv'd to the utmost degree of perfection; provided,

See his Institutes.

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that

that to what he has done for us we only add the diligence and accuracy of the Ancients in making our observations for the future: and without this, I will be bold to fay, that wife and good as the Boerhaavian System is, it will foon be fwallow'd up, or neglected, as others have been before it. For, if the business of observation is thrown by, no body can answer for the luxuriance of fan-We shall soon grow as childish and as positive in our opinions as ever, and there will be no end of schemes and disputations. But objervation will put a stop to every thing of this kind, and enable us to compleat the work, that he has so wisely begun. Hip-Hippocra- pocrates is by far the best example in this

mended by

tes recom- way, and as fuch is recommended by that Ld. Bacon. great judge in all parts of learning, my lord Bacon. The words of this Author are fo expreffive of the thing I aim at, that I cannot forbear transcribing them. In setting down the deficiencies of Phyfick a; "the first is, " (fays

a Primum est intermissio diligentiæ illius Hippocratis, utilis admodum & accuratæ; cui mos erat, narrativam com-

" (fays he) the discontinuance of that use-" ful method of Hippocrates, in writing " narratives of particular cases, with dili-" gence and exactness; containing the nature, cure, and event of distempers. - This con-" tinuation therefore of medicinal reports " we find deficient; especially in the form " of an entire body, digested with proper " care and judgment. But we mean not " that this work should extend to every " common case, that happens daily; nor " yet exclude all but prodigies. For many " things are new in their manner and cir-" cumftances, which are not new in their "kind: and he who looks attentively, will " find many matters worthy of observation " in what feems vulgar".

ponere casuum circa ægrotos specialium; referendo qualis suisset morbi natura, qualis medicatio, qualis eventus—— Istam
proinde continuationem medicinalium narrationum desiderari
video; præsertim in unum corpus cum diligentia & judicio
digestam. Quam tamen non intelligo ita sieri debere amplam,
ut plane vulgata excipiat; nec rursus tam angustam, ut solummodo mirabilia complectatur. Multa enim in modo rei, &
circumstantiis ejus, nova sunt, quæ in genere ip,o nova non
sunt. Qui autem ad observandum adjiciet animum, ei etiam in rebus, quæ vulgares videntur, multa observatu digna
occurrent. Bacon de augment. Scientiar. Lib. IV. Cap 2.

В

Sydenham commended.

By following this method, Dr. Sydenham seems to have done more real service, than all the rest of the English physicians together. And had there been but a few fuch men fince Harvey's time, I make no doubt but Physick wou'd have been quite another thing to what it is now. ver, 'tis never too late to mend; and for ought I know, the proofs we have had of the infufficiency of Theories may the easier bring us to a just esteem for the Ancients, and make us more judicious in our observations and conduct for the time to come. I hope we are all at present convinc'd, that Physick is improvable only by Observation.

Theorifing The Theories of late have wanted no ingedisapprov'd nuity to frame 'em, or authority to support 'em; but for want of a good foundation in Nature, the very best of 'em have many flaws; and the Art, that was intended to be illustrated by 'em, is thereby made so much the more obscure and contemptible. And indeed this must always be the case, whenever men allow themselves to despise that, which is the only means of coming at the

Truth.

Truth. He wou'd be a physician of immortal honour, who cou'd cure diseases with as much ease, as others have fancied they cou'd explain 'em: but alas between Theory and Practice there is a wide difference; and without attending nicely to the Symptoms, especially in acute cases, let a man's learning be as great as you please, 'tis impossible his practice shou'd not be very precarious. There is fomething in every man's case, that requires a particular confideration; for want of which many a one has been loft, who might eafily have been fav'd: agreeable to what Celfus has obferv'd at the end of the fecond chapter of the second book, viz. Sunt enim quædam proprietates bominum, sine quarum notitia non facile quicquam præsagiri potest. i. e. there are some things so particular in some perfons, that, without taking 'em into confideration, no prognostick can easily be made. A man may happen to become eminent, but can never understand Physick, without Observation, which is certainly all in all. To observe well, very But then as it is the most important part, difficult.

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so it is by far the most difficult. And this perhaps is the chief, if not the only reason, why we have so little wrote upon this head worth the reading. What a vast difference is there between the works of Hippocrates, and the works of some of the very best of the moderns? to know what is proper to be obferv'd, and to range our Observations in the best and easiest manner, is a work of more than ordinary nicety and application. And unless a Physician has a great love for the Art, and is withal a man of probity and fagacity, 'tis not to be wondred at, if he should jog on, as others have done before him, without once thinking of going out of the way for the fake of improvements. There is a sheepishness, a faint-heartedness, and I may add a sluggishness, in some people, that won't suffer 'em to push forward: others, fay they, bave done very well without it, and why may not we? Common experience has Shewn us, that so much knowledge is not necessary, in order to be eminent; and why should we give our selves more trouble than is necessary? This is the way of thinking a-200 mong

Slothfulness, &c. reprov'd. mong some people. But, with submission, a man should never undertake the practice of Physick, without resolving to do it in the best manner he can, fashionable or not fashionable. He, who is above these confiderations, ought to give it up.

There's a great difference between the Why aPhypractice of Physick, and the practice of one fician practice of Physick, and the practice of one food be there Arts. A man may be ignorant or negligent in the noble Art of Painting, for instance, and yet paint on, without injuring any body but himself. But the case is quite otherwise in Physick. If a man undertakes the cure of diseases, without knowing their nature, their appearances, and their consequences, together with the best remedies in use; or if he knows these things, and yet neglects to observe the case as he ought, it is a very great chance, if he does not injure every body but himself.

Time was, when the practice of Physick The Colwas thought so difficult and important, that lege of Physicians none but men of the greatest sagacity, lear-erested moning, and humanity, were permitted to mason a noble nage it; and upon this foot the Collège of

K 4

Phylicians

Physicians was erected. But alass the face of Physick has been much chang'd fince; and many a one has got more by the craft, (I'm forry to fay it) than ever he wou'd have got by the Art of Physick. But surely, there is fomething in Phyfick above all this; fomething truly valuable, and that does not need any mean ways of recommendation. To

The bufifick, and Patients.

ness of Phy free a man from pain, and to save him from the duty of destruction, is in it self noble and Godlike. This is the business of Physick; and this it. will often do, where it is well understood, and judiciously apply'd: provided, the Patient is at the same time conformable to the directions of his Physician; but not else. For if the Physician takes never so much care on his part, and the Apothecary fends in the best Medicines that can be prepar'd, the Patient may eafily spoil all by his own bad management; and yet (which is very hard) neither the Phyfician nor Apothecary shall escape censure in this case. It were therefore to be wish'd, that every Patient wou'd endeavour to get the better of unreasonable objections, and resolve to conform form to his Physician's directions, or else not fend for him. This wou'd certainly be the case, if private persons cou'd be sensible of the uneafiness and vexation that Physicians and Apothecaries often feel, when a promising case is made desperate, (a thing that frequently happens) merely by the frowardness and mismanagement of the Patient. Add to this, that the character and reputation of both parties fuffers sometimes confiderably by it; an injury, that ought never to fall upon those, whose conduct all along has been judicious, honest, and unblameable. Whereas by the joint and hearty concurrence of all parties concern'd, little diseases might foon be cur'd, and vehement ones fubdu'd in time. At least, many a one might be preserv'd for the future, who without this concurrence will be expos'd to the utmost danger; the Art of Physick, under judicious management, being able to work almost miracles. No wonder then, that the first Physicians were deify'd, or that those who have excell'd in it since, have al-

ways

ways been highly esteem'd? Where there is an intrinsick excellence in any Art, (as there certainly is in Physick) the professors of it, who understand it well, cannot fail of being much esteem'd. Hippocrates, who is suppos'd (and with very good reason) to have understood it the best of any man, has, upon this very account, been always allow'd to be the Prince of Physicians; and no man has ever pretended to rival him in it. Nor is it any more to be wondred at, that he should excel in Physick, than that Homer shou'd excel in Poetry, or Cicero in Oratory. A great genius will always show it felf. If any man cou'd dispute it with him, 'twas Galen, a man of vast learning. But he is so far from pretending to it, that he every where speaks of him in terms of the highest respect; and particularly in his furprising work de usu partium b, where he has these remarkable words; "again we " shall begin with the words of Hippocra-

^a Ιητρος φιλοσοφος, 1009 εος. A philosophical Physician is Godlike, says Hipp. L. de dec. bab.

και παλιν ουν, ώσπες απο Θεου φωνης, της Ιπποκρατους αςξωμεθα λεξεως. L. I. c. 9. ad initium.

is fomething the more wonderful, because, next to Hippocrates, he himself was certainly the greatest Physician; and civilities of this kind are, we know, very rare among men of the first rank.

Next to the freeing a man from present The Progpain, and snatching him, as it were, from part, hothe grave, is the art of foretelling the changes nourable
and events of diseases: a part of Physick of
great honour to the Physician, and of great
importance to the Patient. And this indeed is the chief mark of distinction between a wise and an ignorant Physician,
and can never be acquir'd but by a diligent and close observation of what passes
from day to day. Many diseases are cur'd
without any great skill in the Physician;
especially where the constitution is not shatter'd before. Hippocrates expresly says,
that "Nature is the Physician, or what

^{*} Νουσων Φυσίες ιηθοί -- ανευρίσκει ή Φυσίς αυτη έωυτη τας εΦοδους, ουκ εκ διανοιής τα μεν, όιον το σκαρδαμυσσειν τα δε και ή γλωσσα ύπουργεει, και όσα αλλα τοιαυτα. απαιδευτος ή Φυσίς εουσα, και ου μαθουσα, τα δεονία ποιεει. L. 6. Epid. Sect. 5. Aph. 1, & 2. " cures

Nature, the " cures diseases; and that she finds out ways best Physi- " for her self, not as an intellectual being,

"but as we fee in winking for instance, " using the tongue, and the like; and " untaught performs her office". And again a, " Nature is sufficient for every thing". By which, and the like expressions, he means no more than this, that, by the natural mechanism of our bodies, whatever proves injurious to us is thrown off fome way or other; provided, the course of nature be not interrupted. Consequently

fore to be ligently.

And there- the study of nature, i.e. the ways by which fore to be fludied di- diseases go off, is of the last importance to the Physician and the Patient. For how can a Physician, who is a stranger to these things, prescribe right, any more than a blind man can walk strait? or how can the Patient expect relief, when the ways, by which he shou'd have it, are either not known, or (which is all one) not regarded by his Phyfician? 'Tis true the power of Nature, or, as 'tis commonly call'd, strength of constitution, is so extraordinary in some

people

^{*} Φυσις εξαρκεει πανλα πασιν. L. de Alim. p. 381.

people (and 'tis happy for fuch it is fo) that, in spite of all the blunders that are committed, they often recover; and that not from common cases, but even the most dange-This, however, shou'd make no man prefumptuous; for there is fo much difficulty in the cure of some diseases, that let the power of Nature be what it will, and the skill of the Physician as great as one can wish it, they will often baffle even the wisest endeavours. Whether this proceeds from our not being fufficiently acquainted with the nature of diseases, or that our prefent remedies are not strong enough to reach 'em, I will not pretend to determine. Certain it is, that we must all die one time or other; and therefore 'tis by no means to be expected, that Phyfick should make a man immortal: tho' perhaps 'tis very possible to arrive at a much more perfect knowledge of diseases than we now have, notwithstanding all the late discoveries; and with me it Hippocrais no question that Hippocrates did really tes a better know'em better. He seems to have studi-judge of dised them so much, as to have been able to the motell,

DECEMBER 1

tell, what the Patient had suffer'd before he saw him, and what the consequences would be afterwards, many days before they happen'd, especially in Fevers, Pleurisies, and the like; and recommends it to others, to be very careful to tell what is past, to know what is present, and to foretel what is to come. And yet it does not appear, that he went upon any particular scheme for this, but only visited his Patients often, and noted down the Symptoms from day to day, in the best manner he cou'd; and thus, by a number of observations, acquir'd the skill that has made his name immortal. What his

His method method of cure was, he tells us in many of cure, where to be places, particularly in his admirable book found. de diæta in morbis acutis; in which, besides the part that directly answers to the title, are many excellent instructions, that ought never to be forgot by those, whose business it is to help and recover mankind, when they are most in want of assistance from others, and least able to help themselves. In-

Aructions

^{*} Λεγειν τα ωρογινομενα, γινωσκειν τα ωαρεονία, ωρολεγειν τα εσομενα μελεί αν τανία. L. I. Epid. p. 948.

structions of this kind Hippocrates, as a wife and tender Physician, is full of in every part of his works, and expresly advises us to remember two things carefully, i.e. to do good, or, at least no burt ": intimating, that it is a much easier matter to oppress than relieve a Patient. And they, who are sensible of the care and pains, that are requisite to make a man a good Physician, will easily see, what great reason there is for such a wise caution. But yet, as great a master of Phyfick as Hippocrates was, there does not feem to be any thing in his works supernatural, or above the power of human nature to comprehend, or, if occasion was, repeat. All is plain, and wife, and regular, built intirely upon judicious observations and rational conclusions: fo that, in short, it is more for want of fuch a genius as his, and the application he us'd, than any impossibility in the thing it felf, that none of his fucceffors have been able to come up to him. He himself was of opinion, "that what was

farther

^{*} Ασκειν περι τα νουσηματα, δυο· ΩΦΕΛΕΕΙΝ Η ΜΗ ΒΛΑΠΤΕΙΝ. L. I. Epid. p. 948.

The defects " farther wanting in Physick might easily bow to be supply'd.

of Physick, " be found out, if any man of capacity, " who was already acquainted with the dif-"coveries of others, would from thence " briskly and industriously pursue it . " And no doubt it is fo: for Nature is Nature still, and as subject to diseases as ever, perhaps more fo. Nay we have the fame difeases among us, as he had in his country; besides some few that he knew nothing of; the Small-pox, for instance, from the Arabians; the Venereal disease from the Spaniards; the Scurvy from the Portuguese; and the Rickets from our own country. How The obser- far his observations will hold good with us, vations of Hippocra- is uncertain; for it does not appear, that ates not fuf ny of our Physicians have made the experiment. Perhaps they are better than we imagine. They are certainly wrote in a very masterly way, independent of Hypotheses; and if they shou'd hold good here, as well as there, they wou'd fave us infinite

ficiently known.

> ^a Και τα λοιπα έυρεθησεται, ην τις ίκανος τε ων και τα έυρημενα ειδως, εκ του ων όρμωμενος ζητεμ. L. de Pr. Med.

> trouble, and be a great benefit to the

publick.

publick. That many of 'em hold good here, I am very certain; and perhaps, as I have opportunities of trying the rest, I shall find 'em equally valuable. Not but great allowance is to be made for the difference there is between the Ancients practice and ours; in acute cases especially. That the difference must be very great, will be obvious to every one, who considers the following particulars, viz.

First of all, the Materia Medica of the The AnciAncients was very different from that of the ents and Moderns: the milder purges of the Arabians, differ much the drugs of the West-Indies, and all the Materia chymical medicines (which make up so Medica. great a part of our Materia Medica) being intirely unknown to them. Blisters too, that are now in such great vogue, were likewise unknown, till the time of Aretæus.

2. Bathing and Exercise of various kinds, 2. In Bath-which were so frequently us'd by them, are ing and very seldom us'd by us; especially Bathing:

and yet there is scarce a Physician in town, who is not convinc'd in his own mind, that if this was more in fashion, the number of L diseases

diseases wou'd not only lessen, but the rest wou'd (many of 'em at least) be cur'd with much more ease. If this pleasant remedy shou'd be us'd, for instance, in the Smal-Bathing of pox, (I don't mean in every fort, but only

rox.

the Smal- in the confluent kind; and in this not upon all occasions, but) where the eruption does not come forward kindly; or where, after the puftules are form'd, a fudden check is given, and they all fall at once; or lastly, when the disease is at the heighth, and the whole body is becoming, as it were, one intire scab. In all these cases what more agreeable or more effectual remedy can be thought of, in conjunction with other things, than warm-bathing? Nothing relaxes more, nothing promotes perspiration better, and nothing operates easier: therefore one would think that nothing can be more useful. For in the first case, if the straitness of the skin is taken off, the refistance is in proportion abated, and the eruption will not only come out with more ease, but, by a judicious management of the Bath, may be turn'd from the face and breaft to the extreme parts: a con-

a confideration of such importance, that Sydenham (the best writer on this subject) asfures us, the danger is to be estimated from the number of pustules about the face, and not from those about the other parts. Soe smidted that if the legs and arms be never fo full, and the face clear, or with but few upon it, there is no danger at all; whereas, if the face be full, and the extremes clear, the danger is never contemptible. Nor is this at all to be wondred at, confidering how much the brain, and the organs of respiration will be here affected. For the refiftance the blood will meet with in the external parts, from the tension and swelling that are fo remarkable in this distemper, must naturally cause a greater quantity than ordinary to be thrown upon the internal parts, from which a difficulty of breathing, and a great diforder of the brain are, in a manner, unavoidable. But if the pustules can be turn'd another way, and the face and breaft kept tolerably clear, the oppresfion now mention'd will be in a great meafure prevented, his breathing will be easy, L 2 a. 600Inoculation cor.-

demn'd.

The State of PHYSICK

and a delirium in less danger of coming on. Whereas, as the case now stands, the Smalpex is the worst, and most dangerous diftemper of any we are here subject to. Nor has that hazardous and unwarrantable practice of Inoculation, which has lately been introduc'd among us, been able to take off the dangerous part fo far, but that almost every body at present chuses to receive it in the common way, rather than stand the chance of fuch a bold experiment. It is therefore worth while to try, what effect warm-bathing wou'd have in this case, under judicious management: for nothing feems to agree better with the nature of the distemper, or bids fairer to take off the dangerous part; and I'm fure no remedy can be pleasanter. and sangung it sold in to may

The Arabi- The Arabians, who were first acquainted with this distemper, us'd this remedy ans us'd Bathing in frequently, and with great fuccess, as apthis caje. pears from Rhazes : and a very good judge among the Moderns recommends it too, a-

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mong other things b. Nor can any reafour nable objection be form'd against it, so far as I can see. Ill-natur'd people will object against every thing; but among the better fort, the behaviour of fuch generally goes for nothing. These are some of the advantages, that, in all probability, wou'd attend the use of warm-bathing in the first case, viz. where there is any difficulty in their coming out. And it is, for the same reafons, as likely to be ferviceable in the fecond case, viz. where, after they are come out, they all subside again; especially if some warm and comfortable cordial is given inwardly at the same time. But in the last It's advancase, viz. where the distemper is at the tage very heighth, nothing can more effectually pre-the turn. vent, or at least mitigate, the secondary fever, or that fever which attends the patient upon the turn, and is oftentimes fo fatal, in spite of all the Physicians skill. For this fever is occasion'd, in the opinion of all Physicians, by part of the purulent matter

b See Boerbaare's aphorisms.

Bathing to purging.

of the pustules being absorb'd, and return'd into the blood, while the rest is discharg'd outwardly, and dry'd up by the bed-cloaths, the air, and the like. A late ingenious prescrable Physician attempted to prevent the ill effects of this absorption, by opening an outlet in another place, and so carrying the Matter off by flool: but this method, how fuccessful soever it might have been under his own management, has often prov'd fatal fince in the hands of other Physicians, who wanted (perhaps) that skill and dexterity, that he himself was so famous for. Besides, to say the truth, it does not seem to be the most natural way of curing; and whatever is against nature, or whatever does not concur with nature, especially at a crisis, is hazardous. Here's a discharge attempted by the skin, why shou'd we think of any other part? there's as much fafety here as any where; and we can easier come at this part than many others. If the reforption of the Matter occasions the fever, why shou'd not we try to prevent it? warmbathing, if it does not carry all the Matter off, off, will certainly carry off a vast deal, and by that means, if the fever be not intirely prevented, it will, however, be very much mitigated; and (which is not the left part to be consider'd) those frightful scars, that so often follow a severe Small-pox; and the intolerable noisomness, that generally attends this last state, will, by this method, very rarely happen; the putrid matter, that is so apt to corrode the parts, and make the bed-chamber so offensive, being wash'd away by the warm water, or at least so attenuated, as to lose its Acrimony. I don't deny, that gentle purging may be useful too, in order to carry off the Matter of the internal pustules; but then I think Bathing, which is the most natural, the most pleafant, and the most secure remedy, shou'd not at the same time be omitted. It were easy to expatiate upon the virtues of warmbathing, but this is not a proper place. The Ancients were very sensible of 'em, and I wish the Moderns wou'd think of 'em a little more. ALVIS OWN

it does to carry all the Matter

3. Diet

3. In the management of Diet.

3. Diet, which had so great a share in their cures, enters but little into ours, in comparison. This affair indeed has of late been more confider'd than it us'd to be, and that by two or three Gentlemen of great abilities; and fo we may reasonably hope for more benefit in this way, than we have had.

ging Nature.

4. In obser- 4. Nature, which was so carefully obferv'd from day to day by them, is feldom regarded by us. Hippocrates, and the wifest of the Ancients, and especially the Methodifts, were extremely cautious of evacua-d tions, or exercise, and the like, while the humours were crude, for fear of interrupting the course, or weakening the power of Nature; and thought that Diet, judiciously w administred, was preferable to Physick at that time. Nor did they ever approve of giving Physick, without an evident indication in Nature first: and then in such a manner, as never to overcharge or oppressthe Patient, for fear of making the remedy worse than the disease. The Moderns on the contrary are very fond of Phylick, (and

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(and that from the beginning) and feem to rely much more upon Art than Nature, bleeding, vomiting, purging, and bliftering, by rule as it were, whether there be indications in Nature for every one of these, or not: a practice that must needs make a veor indicate income at an ry great alteration.

I am very sensible it will be here said, in An objecjustification of it, that by this method the fiver'd. crifis is hastned, and the Patient sooner freed from his uneafiness. To which I anfwer, that 'tis very probable the Crifis will be hastned this way, but then it must not be forgot, that it may as well come on too foon, as be protracted too long?. And in either case, a speedy relapse, or something worse, is to be expected. No Crisis is to be depended on, that is not perfect; and no Crifis can be perfect, that is not according to the course of Nature. If therefore the course of Nature be interrupted, and a Cri-

[·] See Celsus's third book, c. 4, where speaking of Asclepiades's method of curing, cito, tuto, jucunde; he adds, id votum est: sed fere periculosa esse nimia & festinatio & voluptas solet; i. e. this is the thing to be desir'd; but too much haft, and too much indulgence is generally attended with danger.

fis brought on before the humours are digested, the consequence will be, that the Patient will either not survive it, or a relapse will certainly follow; and perhaps the foundation be laid of a long and tedious illness: nothing being more common than for a chronical case (such as a Dropsy, Consumption, &c.) to follow upon an acute one (such as a Fever, Pleurisy, &c.) injudiciously or præcipitately cur'd. Or else how comes it about, that the number of chronical diseases is so much increas'd of late? how much better is it therefore, to wait a day or two longer for a perfect Crisis, than stand so bad a chance, for want of it?

The exceffive use of Physick condemn'd as pernicious.

Again, the Moderns, besides their frequent use of Physick without indications, are grown so excessively fond of it, that the Patient is too often overloaded with it; and so the Art, that was intended for his preservation, is thereby made (I'm sorry to say it) the instrument of his destruction; Nature being unable to recover her self from one oppression, before another is thrown in upon her. Sometimes indeed

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she gets the better, even under these circumstances; but then 'tis after the Patient is grown quite weary of taking, or the Phyfician asham'd to cram down any more; and so is forc'd to declare, that the rest must be left to her intirely. Surprising are the effects of Nature's power at such a time; and yet, whenever the like case happens, the Physician (which is astonishing) too often goes on in the same road, without once reflecting, that, for want of acting cautioully, and in concurrence with Nature before, he himself was the occasion of the former danger, and is in a fair way to involve his new Patient in the like danger. Good God! how is it possible that men of understanding shou'd ever have acted such a part as this? and yet, as injudicious or as cruel as this may feem, experience convinces us, that this part has been too often acted, notwithstanding the complaints of friends, and the entreaties of expiring Patients. What a vast difference must this make between the practice of the Moderns, and that of the Ancients? a difference, that

is infinitely more than a ballance for the advantages we have above them from the modern discoveries. What does all our knowledge fignify, if we are above observing those things, that are absolutely necesfary to make a man a wife and good Phyfician? how eafy and agreeable to all parties, might the cure of diseases be, if Phyficians wou'd but allow themselves time to observe the course of the disease accurately. and to let the virtue of one medicine appear, before another be thrown in? no body expects to be cur'd without physick; and why any person shou'd be discourag'd from the use of it, when it is really wanted, for my part I can see no good reason. fick is sometimes as necessary for us as Food; this every body must allow; and confequently the better opinion the people have of it, so much the better wou'd it be for themselves, and for all the branches of the I wish therefore, that it was Profession. put upon fuch a good and humane foot, that every one might have the benefit of it, in proportion to their wants on the one hand, and

and their circumstances on the other. This would make it the greatest blessing to mankind in the world; and I hope I shall one day have the pleasure of seeing it so.

But to return. Whoever confiders the Our Mateparticulars above mention'd, will eafily fee ria Medica not so useful what a great difference there must needs to us as it be between the practice of the Ancients and might be. the Moderns. And yet no body of understanding will presume to say, that the Ancients did not know Physick very well. The most that can be said is, that as our Materia Medica is better than theirs, we can cure fooner than they. I grant it, provided we be as careful to observe the course of Nature, as they were; but not else. For, tho' we can fweat, purge, or vomit, easier perhaps than they cou'd; yet, if we are not as careful to observe the time for every one of these, as they were, their weak remedies, concurring with Nature, shall do much more good, than our strong ones, not concurring. And this is really the case. We lose the benefit of many excellent remedies, merely for want of observing the case more accurately,

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Jician.

and fubmitting our felves to the conduct of Nature (whose servants we are, or ought to be) rather than follow any particular fyftem, how ingenious foever the contrivance may feem to us . There is, it must be own'd a good deal of difficulty in follow-Qualifica- ing Nature close. The Attention, the fafary for a gacity, the difinterestedness, and the diligence, good Pby- that is necessary, fall to the share of but few b. 'Tis much easier to make a learned harangue in the modish way, than to do this part of the business like an Artist: or else how comes it about, that among so many famous Physicians in England we have had but one Sydenbam. But, however, difficult as it is, it may be got the better of, and it ought to be got the better of, by e-

> Of this I shall have occasion to be more particular, when I can find time to prepare for the press the Gulftonian Lectures, that I read this year in the Theatre of the College of Physicians; especially in that chapter where the difference between the Practice of the Moderns and the Ancients, in the diseases there treated of, will be consider'd at large.

> b If any man thinks this sentence too severe, I only defire, that he wou'd turn to the fixth chapter, book 2, of the fecond part of Le Clerc's Histoire, or (which perhaps will please him better) to Rhazes's description of a good Physician and a Quack; in the second Vol. of Freind's history, p. 60. 69, and he will then find less reason to be offended.

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very one who fets up for a Physician; or else the Patient stands but a bad chance, and 'tis often an even wager, in an acute case, whether he is kill'd or cur'd by Phyfick. This doctrine, how harsh soever it may feem to some, is the doctrine of Truth and Nature; and may be supported by testimonies without number from the wifest of the Ancients, and the most judicious of Moderns. In short, there is no such thing Nature alas practifing Physick safely, but under the ways to be the guide. conduct of Nature; even tho' the Physician is master of all languages, and profesfor of all sciences. If Learning alone cou'd do the business, or if this was the principal qualification, how happy wou'd the present Age be, in comparison of those that are already past? But alas, this, as great and as useful a qualification as it is, comes far short of what is wanting in Phyfick, and we find the learned as much at a loss fometimes, as the unlearned; and fo both are forc'd to leave the affair to Nature, after having try'd every thing they cou'd think of, to no manner of purpose.

How necessary is it therefore to study the ways of Nature in time, in order to go hand in hand with her in the cure of diseases, that if we cann't relieve so much as we wou'd, we may at least have this satisfaction, " that the Patient is not the worse for Hippocra- the Physician too, is intolerable. The Fa-

tes's method.

us." To be oppress'd by the disease and ther of Physick never did any thing of this kind; but, on the contrary, studiously obferving what turn the difease wou'd take, either forbore to act, if Nature was strong enough of her felf, or elfe judiciously affifted, in concurrence with her, without attempting to alter her course, for fear of sacriffing the Patient to a particular Hypothesis. Wou'd to God the same candour, the same wisdom, and the same diligence had continu'd to this day. Physick wou'd have now appear'd in another dress, and all mankind wou'd have esteem'd it the most amiable, as it is undoubtedly the most noble, of all the Arts they have yet known. This it may still be, but not by Theories

way of improving Phyfick.

and philosophical fancies. Nature must be **fludied** fludied hard, and that according to the doctrine of Hippocrates; for the method he took was the only one to come at the Truth; and whoever copies after him will be able, in time, to know the diseases of the place he lives in with as much readiness and certainty, as Hippocrates feems to have known those in Greece, or in the other places that he mentions; allowing only for the difference of Genius.

Had the plan he laid down been care- Neglett of fully follow'd, no reflections of this kind observations, the wou'd have been now wanted: but alas ! grand imby an unaccountable fate, his works have all along. been but little study'd, in proportion to their goodness. Schemes and Systems were too common among the ancients, and Anatomy and Philosophy have been the chief favourites of the moderns; as if every thing was to be done by them, that a Physician can wish for: and yet, confidering the curious frame of our body, and the mechanical laws that it is subject to, much benefit is undoubtedly to be expected from this quarter; but, perhaps, not till we 30-11-04-56

know

know a great deal more of the nature, the relation, the crifes, and other circumstances of diseases; which are all as so many data to pursue our enquiries by. And for want of confidering these things properly, all that has been done in the new way is hardly worth mentioning: for what figninifies reasoning or philosophizing without matter of fact to go upon? The editors of Hippocrates (convinc'd of the usefulness of judicious and candid bistories) have done what they cou'd, to bring us back again to observation; as if without this no improvements cou'd ever be expected: and our learned country-man, Harvey, might have been of more fervice to us, than all the Theorists put together, if we cou'd have prevail'd upon ourselves to have study'd facts more, and the natural confequences of 'em. But instead of that, many of his followers (notwithstanding his good example) have dealt wholly in Theory, and amus'd the publick with little else than idle inventions and learned conundrums: a strange way of improving an Art, that depends

depends intirely upon Experiment and Obfervation. Another Hippocrates, perhaps, the world is never to be bless'd with; but what then? Are we to be indolent or indifferent upon that account? We certainly know many things at this time, that he did not know; and by a right application of our knowledge may go farther than we are aware of. Let any one turn to Baglivi, and see what a vast way Baglivi that man went in a few years; and when again comhe has read him through, let him ask himfelf this plain question, viz. Whether, if Baglivi had liv'd to fixty or upwards, he wou'd not have left us the best and most valuable collection of Observations, that ever yet appear'd? I am very much miftaken, if he wou'd not be intirely of this opinion. But then those Observations were confin'd to Rome chiefly; and the author feems to defire, that the reader may never forget this circumstance; and therefore he puts him in mind frequently, that what is faid of this or that disease is said by one, who liv'd and wrote in urbe Roma & in M 2 aere

Mada 9

aere Romano: fo that whatever the Italians may have to boast of upon Baglivi's account, we certainly have room enough left for the finest Genius to shew itself. In the midst of all our knowledge, we still want a fet of good Observations for this country. Sydenbam's are the best, but they are not always sufficient. What pity is it, that in an Art fo noble and fo copious too, Encourage firucture of the Body is well known;

ments to Observation.

we should have had so few Artists? The the materials we work with are known too; and nothing remains but a more perfect knowledge of diseases. Hard, that we cannot compass that! For my part, I see no reason why we may not, provided we fet about it in earnest. At least it is worth while to try. The compleat knowledge of one distemper wou'd be, perhaps, as a key to all the rest; or if not, we shou'd be better able to deal with the rest: and who can tell, if we allow'd ourselves time to find 'em out, but that they wou'd all appear as regular in their courses as any other Phænomena; and possibly might be cur'd

cur'd as eafily as they are now contracted? If it should ever come to that, it wou'd be a fine improvement of the Art indeed; and yet I fee no manner of reason why we shou'd despair of it. Many things in nature, as hard as this, have been conquer'd; and are now within the compass of common understandings. Besides, the experiment is attended with no manner of inconvenience or hazard to the Patient, (a circumstance well worth confidering) but on the contrary manifestly tends to his greatest security. For if a Phyfician has skill enough to examine him right, and will be at the pains to fet his case down from day to day, is it not much more likely, that he should be a better judge of the case, than one who sees him feldom, and trusts entirely to his memory? Certainly: and the better the case is known, the better chance the Patient stands, beyond all doubt. So that, take it which way you will, a wife and diligent observer will always have the advantage of any other Physician, who either has not skill enough to observe, or time enough to write down the case.

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A Plan for the Improvement of Physick.

I all along intended, and given a short view of the state of Physick from the earliest Ages of the Greeks to the times we now live in, (by which the reader is convinc'd, I hope, of the infignificance of Hypotheses, and the importance of Observation) I come now to propose the plan for improving Physick, and making it more useful in our days, than ever it was before. This, I apprehend, may be brought about "by Physicians rejecting every thing that

Observation the best way to improvement.

" is doubtful or perplex'd, and cultivating " the business of Observation in the best " manner it is capable of." By this means we shall come (if ever we can come) to the

the true knowledge of difeafes, and the readiest method of curing 'em; especially as the Materia Medica is so vastly improv'd to what it was among the Ancients. Whereas, while we are ignorant of the true state of diseases, or at least not sufficiently acquainted with their natural appearances, periods, and terminations, is it to be wonder'd at, that mistakes shou'd often happen, both in the explanations that are attempted by some, and the remedies that are administer'd by others. Some Physicians (perhaps) may think, we can't well be in a better condition, as to these things, than we are at present: but that the difeases of our times are not known so well as the diseases of former times were, is most certain. Who is there now so con-Prædictiversant with 'em, or so curious in his Ob-ons very fervations, as to be able to pradict, with imperfect any tolerable credit or certainty, the chan-time. ges and event of Fevers, Pleurifies, and the like, some days before they happen? And yet this is very possible to be done, where the Physician has made proper remarks all M 4 along; tolorabilde

along; as appears from what has been done already by Hippocrates, Galen, and some others. I don't say, that the critical days of the Ancients are always critical days with us; tho' I am persuaded at the fame time, that there is a great deal more in 'em than the generality of Physicians imagine: but I will venture to fay, that whoever will be at the pains to make the experiment fairly, will often find the days fet down by Hippocrates hold true to a wonder; notwithstanding the jest that some Physicians have been pleas'd to make of 'em, pretending in excuse, that the situation of England, the diet, the manners, the physick, and other circumstances of the inhabitants are so different from the situation, &c. of Greece, that the comparison can by no means hold good. Difference in circumstances must undoubtedly make a difference in appearances; but I cou'd wish, the Gentlemen, who are so offended at these things, had at the same time given us reason to believe that they had made themselves proper judges. If a man is a tolerable Sa Princi

among the Moderns, &c.

tolerable mafter of the Ancients, and as careful as he ought to be in observing his Patient from time to time, such a person is most likely to tell us, how far the Ancients are true or false: and indeed no other person can be judge. To talk therefore against the doctrines of the Ancients, without being able to prove the truth or falfity of 'em, tho' it has nothing new in it, has, however, fomething very furprifing. Suppose the Ancients were mistaken in some particulars, will any man, who confiders the curious frame of our body, and the wife laws by which it is preferv'd, presume to say, that there is no order or regularity in the progress of diseases, but all is cafual and uncertain? Those who have confider'd the affair most, and seem'd every way capable of confidering it right, have declar'd the contrary; and by repeated experience have found, that as difcases have a time to begin, so they have also a time to increase, to be at the heighth, to decrease, and to end: and this progress, unless it be injudiciously interrupted, is as colerable constant

constant and as regular, as any other Phanomena in nature. Now, if this be true. it certainly is of importance to know the times for every one of these: for if Nature is attempting a crisis, for instance, and the Physician in the dark about it, infinite mischief may happen before we know where we are. The affair therefore deferves to be feriously consider'd in time: and if the Observations of the Ancients are of no use in England, let us carefully avoid what they have told us, and industriously enquire how the case really stands bere; in order to know the days that are critical with us, as well as they cou'd those that were critical with them. The knowledge of these things wou'd be of admirable use, and make the practice of Physick much eafier, and more successful than ever: for this can never be had, but by a diligent observation of the course of diseases, and the effect of medicines; fo that we shou'd plainly fee what is done by Nature, and what by Art; and confequently be able to distinguish with more exactness, and prefcribe

fcribe with more honour to ourselves, and more advantage to the Patient.

Add to this, that when we have got a number of facts together, sufficient to ground a good system upon, the Philosopby and Anatomy of the present times may help us abundantly more than we can now expect: but till this be done, the less we refine and philosophize in physick, the better it will be for the Patient, whatever it may be for the Physician.

In order therefore to procure this valu-

able collection, I humbly propose,

Adina)

First of all, that three or four persons of proper qualifications shou'd be employ'd in the Hospitals, (and that without any ways A proposal interfering with the Gentlemen now con-for the Hospitals. cern'd) to set down the cases of the Patients there from day to day, candidly and judiciously, without any regard to private opinions or publick systems, and at the year's end publish these facts just as they are, leaving every one to make the best use of 'em he can for himself. Wou'd not fome fuch method as this let us more

into

into the Nature of diseases in a few years, than all the books of Theories, or even the books of Objervations, hitherto publish'd? Certainly it would: and yet if proper encouragement was given, 'tis not at all unlikely, but that persons enow wou'd soon be found, every way qualified for fuch an undertaking. And if even good falaries were allow'd 'em, and every thing made as easy and agreeable to 'em as they cou'd desire, the benefit the publick wou'd receive from 'em wou'd vastly more than balance the expence.

Another for the College and Surgeons Hall

Or if this be too great an undertaking, fuppose that only every uncommon case shou'd be oblig'd to be recorded in the College of Physicians, or Surgeons Hall, according as it might happen to be in Phyfick or Surgery. This wou'd make it better than it is at present; and in time we shou'd come to know many things, that without this method we never shall know.

Quackery, this means.

Add to this, that nothing wou'd more effectually suppress those idle pieces, that press'd by come out from year to year, to the scandal

of

for the

College

of Physick, and the shame of Physicians. Such ignorant pretenders wou'd be treated as they ought; the Art wou'd gather ftrength, and flourish more and more; and all contempt and ridicule (for which, I fear, there is at present too much reafon) wou'd be quite out of countenance. Nor wou'd the Gentlemen of the Profession meet with so many slights and mortifications as they now do; but wou'd have the pleasure of seeing themselves treated with the respect due to their character; while pretenders of every kind (who have now so great a share of the business in their own hands) wou'd meet with no manner of encouragement, but dwindle away to nothing.

These wou'd be the consequences of The publick some such method, as I have been men-best able to tioning; and nothing but a publick coun-things, but tenance of it can ever do the business ef- men not fectually. Private men may labour and altogether tug at it, as much as they will, but they can never bring it to a bearing like the publick. Not but the countenance and concur-

concurrence of a society of Physicians might do great matters, if they could but keep from growing shy and jealous of one another; which I am afraid wou'd be as difficult a part as any. If this jealoufy cou'd be got over, and a fet of Physicians, of sufficient abilities, wou'd undertake it heartily, confining themselves to Observations in the plainest manner, without any regard to the fancies and opinions of others, and making no fecret of the matter, but candidly communicating their Observations to one another from time to time, they wou'd be able, in a few years, to write as well upon the diseases of England, as ever Hippocrates did upon those of Greece, &c. At least they would be able to write the fecond best book that ever was wrote in Physick.

The easiest and most effectual way of The tabu-lar method doing this, is, in my opinion, by the use recommen- of the following Table, which I have us'd for that purpose several years, and find it answers every thing I intended by it. There was another column at first for the Weather: but having fince that got a book by itself

The tabudar *metho*

for those observations, in which I every day set down the course of the Wind, and the dryness and moistness of the Air, &c. I have long lest this article out, and reduc'd the Table to the form it now appears in, viz.

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t pear varion	A Special of the Second of the
GENERALIS.	Remedia.
2	Dies Menfis.
A MEDICA G	Morbi Phænomena.
15 SY	Dies Morbi.
To the part of	Sexus, Ætas, Species, Temperies, Occupatio, & Victus Ægri.

To shew the application and use of this. General Table, I think proper to subjoin two cases, not as absolutely perfect, but only by way of example.

An Objection anfwer'd.

I'm very fenfible, that many of my readers will be of opinion, that this method is too tedious to be comply'd with, especially by men of much bufiness. which I reply, that I know of none shorter to answer all intentions; and to do a thing of this kind by halves, is much the fame with not doing it at all. We have imperfect cases enow already. Besides, the trouble is not so great, as at first fight The method may be apprehended. The first column is soon fill'd; tho' under the last article I of using the Table. generally comprehend not only the way of life, as to eating, drinking, and exercise, but also so much of the cause of the distemper, I mean as to cold and beat, and the like obvious causes, as I can inform my felf of. The fecond is the largest; but then 'tis only from day to day, and by the help of abbreviations may be confiderably

shorten'd.

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Tabula Medica, Prin

Sexus, Ætas, &c.

Dies Morbi

MORBIPHÆNOM

Chirurgus quidam, 1 annos circiter triginta natus; formâ gracili & humili; colore fusco; viribus neque infirmis, neque tamen robustis; temperie adeo biliofa, ut ter quaterve quotan- 4 nis in confuetudine fuisset vomitus; victu, nullis legibus obligatus; febre biliofa nuper graviter exercitatus; post equitationem & pleniorem cænam ægrotare cepit 20° Maij 1731. fequebatur molesta nox, cum infomniis multis, turbidis: postridie horrores crebri, & lassitudines per totum. Vefperi fua sponte sumpsit emeticum ex Ipecacuanha, quod alvum & fupra & infra proce folli-Nocte male citabat. requievit, fiti inexpugnabili & febre pene confectus. Mane accersitus fui.

Vultus naturalis. Spiritus facilis. Lingua alba, flav Pulsus velox, sed regularis. Calor febrilis, sed mitior quar dolores & lassitudines. Caput liberum. Urina biliosa, da dita. Sub meridiem surrexit, & in conclave descendit. vitulino. Manebat calor. Inquietudo levis, & longa. multi. Flatus plurimus. Polores vesperi mitescebant, sed Cænabat ex cocto hordeo.

Melius requievit, sed ex somno terrores. Sudabat mu Mane, quum aderam, calor modicus. Pulsus regularis & v Vultus laudabilis, & in omnibus se melius habuit. Diem Repetebatur jus vitulinum.

Mediocriter requievit, calore tempestatis quam sebris turba Nihil minxit. Mane sebris prorsus expers; agilis & sibi su nitate integra. Diem iterum placide egit. Alvus sponte

Post duos dies, hausta aqua Actoniensi, probe subducebatu valuit.

a, flavescens, non valde sicca. or quam nocte. Leves artuum ofa, clara, pauca, & ægre red- dit. Parce prandebat, ex jure ga. Obrepente somno terrores nt, sed perparum remisit calor.		6 ^{ta} quaque hora fumendum. Pro potu ordinario Infufum Salviæ, cum fucco Lim. & Sac- charo.	
is turbatus. Purimum sudabat. Is sibi suavis visus est, ut in san- s sponte solvebatur. ducebatur alvus, & persecte con-			
A Control of the Cont			

Sexus, Ætas, &c.

MORBI PHÆNOMENA.

Juvenis, Annos 18 11 natus, gracilis, speciosus, agilis, filius incolæ de Little Chelsea, tusse fuit correptus sub
20^m Octobris 1729. quæ usque ad 29^m diem mediocriter vexabat; tum gravior sacta
eum valde exercuit.

Nocte febricitavit, fed nihil fumpfit remedii usque ad 2^m Novembris. Tunc vomuit ex Ipecac. & 4° die mittebatur fanguis.

Morbum •3.905adh, fustinuit usque ad 6^m, quo die decubuit; testaceis pulveribus incassum adhibitis.

Eodem die Auymoi 15 crebri & alti; desipiintia levis, cum vigi-

Inter Scapulas appliabatur vesicatorium. remuit sequenti die, à astricta fuit alvus, quæ per clysterem ane noctem solvebatur. Magis autem deliratat, graviterque tremebat, præsertim noce antequam accersitus sui.

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Χαρων τρομοι. Οφθαλμων ερευθος. Pulsus nec velox nec intermittens. Calor sat suavis, Lingua aspera, non valde sicca. Fauces liberæ. Dolor nullus nisi in capite. Urina cop pauco sedimento nigricante. Alvus mane dejecit. Levis desipientia. Sub vesperam recruores adeo ut vix contineri potuerit in lecto. Calor magnus per totum. Spi prius bene sumpserat, renuit; præscripta tamen remedia probe sumpsit. Sub mediam noction υποζυγιου apparuit, cum turbido sedimento & πιτυρωδα. Diluculo cessabat sebris. Alvus cit. Υπιος brevis sed ταρφχωδης. Nihil sudabat.

Mane rediit Mens. Discrete respondebat; tremebat adhuc, & pulsus erat ut heri. Disporiosus. Prompte loquebatur, & facile deglutiebat. Vultus non multum turbatus. Episput heri. Urina mane reddita, sulva, clara, pauca. Calor suavis. Sub meridiem rediit se delirio usque ad vesperam durabat; tunc mitescebat; tamen nocte delirabat, insaniebat, dente & in lecto vix contineri potuit. Adhæc, tremula vox, & etiam hæsitantia, una cum son wordebat. Over xai xoxegua dasegues; tamen ante noctem ter reddidit, rogatus, Urinam, qua nubecula tenui prope sundum.

Χειςων τερμοι graves. Φωνη τερμωδις. Οφθαλμοι εξιχοντες, καθαςωτατοι και οςθοι. Calor modest, fed paulo post desipiebat. Rogatus prompte deglutiebat. Lingua valde sicca & aspera ut heri. Vesperi rarissime loquebatur, pene αφωνος. Νυξ δυτφοερς. Multum delirabat, sed stum sumpsit paregoricum.

Adfui sub meridiem. τεσμοι μεγαλοι, cum comate. Ρις οξεια. Το μελαι οφθαλμου δεξιου το λευχοι εξυθερν. Λημια ωτερι αρχοτερου, cum inflammata & inversa palpebra. Invocatus resp bibebat etiam, & bene deglutiebat. Calor aliquantulum debilior. Pulsus non pravus. Σκελ χυζως και διαωτωλείμενα. Caput extensum, & projectum mentum; velut in opisthotonicis. Abfui.

Omnia in melius inveni. Tremores vix apparebant. Oculi clari & compositi. Lingua ra. Mentis rarus sevisque error. Calor capitis & totius corporis suavissimus. Febris pen ces non amplius has emuss. Alvus bis bene dejecit, & quidem figurate; & æger ad exonera prompte erexit. Urina resumble cum rubro sedimento prope sundum. Jus pulli gallinace sus pane; cibumque crebro petiit. N.B. Ante sinem 14 diei bis nigrescebat, teste tota su visus est, graviter convulsus & spumans. Noctem quietius quam ante egit, 14 horas, plus mane rediit, & dormiturivit toto die. Urina tamen & sæces in lecto. Subinde desipuit in liravit, & vix contineri potuit; tamen post somnum omnia mitiora. Jucunde collocutus lata sumpsit, & mire resocillatus suit.

Dormiebat a media nocte usque ad meridiem sere. Sub 10^m horam eum alte dormiente semiapertis, ut mos ei est, oculis, sebris prorsus expertem & tremorum. Calor suavissin vespera reddebat, crassa, albida, cum copioso albo sedimento, usque ad sundum subsidente bra, pauca, sabulosa materies. Nocte semel aut bis ex Jure dicto & sero lactis tenui hausi

Bene se habuit. Plurimum dormiverat a die 17°, raro expergiscens, nisi ad mingendum ma. Appetitus longe melior. Urina multa & valde laudabilis. Valedixi.

Notandum insuper, quod per aliquod ante hoc malum spatium animo cruciebatur; & de rogatus semper respondebat, se optime valere.

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	Dies Menfis	Remedia.	Eventus.
fuavis, caput autem valde calidum. rina copiosa, fusca, nigricans, cum am recruduit febris, cum multo βλειπ. Spiritus difficilis. Oblata, quæ am noctem Urina multa, quæ mane Alvus intra 4 aut 5 horas ter dejeri. Disparuit εξευθω. Sp. minus las. Epispastica bene cedebant. Dolor, rediit febris, & cum multa ταρωχη & σατ, dentes stridebat, artus disjiciebat, n βοη πολλη subinde. Minime dormiam, quæ & rubra erat & clara, cum calor moderatus. Discrete responde- & aspera. Ουρου και κοπερικώ λαθριώς, abat, sed in lecto se continebat. Hautou διξιου των το αιω βλεφαρου κουφθευ, catus respondebat, & me probe novit; us. Σκελεω, υπτιου κειμειου, ξυδικαμμεια totonicis. Perpetuo & totus tremuit. Lingua humida & rubra. Vox liberebris penitus extincta. Urina & sæexonerandum surrexit è lecto, & sese gallinacei crebro hausit, una cum inste tota familia, & statim moribundus oras, plus minus, dormiens. Ad sese sipuit interdiu, & sequenti nocte deslicutus est, risit, se facile erexit, obormientem invenis, sed aperto ore, & suavissimus. Urina, quam hesterna bsidente; & super album apparuit runui hausit, & perparum desipuit. ngendum aut sorbendum. Alvus sir-	•	mittatur fanguis ad žvj. Raso capiti & cruribus applicentur vesicatoria, & plantis pedum sequens cataplasma. Fol. Rut. Raph. rustic. ana m. ij. Sapon. n. & c. ana žj. Sem. Sinap. žs. m. Lap. Contray. Dj. Ent. Ven. gr. xij. Camph. gr. ij. Conf. Alk. q. s. m. f. bolus 6ª quaque hora sumend. cum C. iv. Jul. seq. Aq. Meliss. Ceras. n. Theriac. ana žiij. Syr. croci žvj. m. Pergat in usu Emuls. cui adde Aq. Cinn. s. žis. & cataplasmati Camph. 3ss. Croci p. Dj. Lap. Contr. Dj. E. Ven. Dss. Sal. vol. Succ. gr. v. Conf. Alk, q. s. m. f. bolus 6ª quaque hora sumendus, cum præscripto Julapio. Brachiis applicentur vesicatoria magna duo. Lap. Contr. Pulv. ad Gutt. ana gr. xij. Cast. gr. vj. Croci gr. v. m. f. pulvis 8ª quaque hora sumendus ex Julapio seq. Lap. Contr. Pulv. ad Gutt. ana gr. xij. Cast. gr. vj. Croci gr. v. m. f. pulvis 8ª quaque hora sumendus ex Julapio seq. Lap. Rut. Puleg. ana žiij. Pæon. C. žij. Syr. Pæon. žj. m. Rap. Aq. Rut. Puleg. ana žiij. Pæon. C. žij. Syr. Pæon. žs. m. f. haustus paregoricus hac vespera, finito paroxysmo (sed non prius) sumendus. Nihil. Sumat haustum paregoricum præscriptum 11° die.	Convaluit.

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shorten'd. A man may easily invent characters for words that frequently occur, fuch as fiveat, urine, flool, heat, pain, and the like, and also for short sentences, and by this means fave himself much trouble. Add to this, that the Latin tongue will be shorter for him than the English, and sometimes one Greek word will express that which requires many words in Latin, and more in English. I often use Greek words in mine; I mean the words of Hippocrates, on purpose to see how far that great man's Observations may be depended upon in our country: a specimen of which I have just before given in one of the Tables. And whoever shall think fit to copy after ir, will find, that what he esteem'd very tedious at first, will by custom be made very easy. But wherever abbreviations are us'd, it wou'd be best to have 'em all explain'd at the beginning of the book, for the fake of those who come after: otherwife a man may take a great deal of pains to no manner of purpose. I desire it may b no rock likewife

likewise be remember'd, that he will have no occasion to set down every case, but only such as he has reason to believe he shall attend to the end. And if a Physician shou'd have half a dozen such in a day (which wou'd not often happen) I am very well affur'd, that where he has made his observations regularly and judicioully, and not in a careless and confus'd manner, he may fet 'em all down in an hour or two; and that with a degree of exactness sufficient for every thing. For I must needs say, I can't be of Baglivi's opinion in this 2, " that if every circumstance " is not taken notice of, the whole affair is " fpoil'd." This is perhaps impossible: the more circumstances are taken notice of, the better; but provided the plain and evident appearances are observ'd as they ought, the Patient will be little or no sufferer, in my opinion, by an omission of trisling and obfcure circumstances; which may very well be compar'd to the Minutiæ of Anatomy,

[?] See his third chapter of the second book s lov over

that a Physician may safely be without, if he is but tolerably vers'd in the knowledge of the Circulation and the Animal Oeconomy. But if after all, the Gentlemen of great business cannot find time for such Observations, those of less business may; and be very ferviceable in their station: for it is not material by whom such Tables are us'd, provided they be us'd judiciously and honestly. Besides, by an early and The addiligent application to a work of this fort, vantage of 'tis more than probable, that in time they sicians. will come to know diseases so perfectly, that it will be impossible for 'em to mis of their reward. A good Physician, who is withall a man of humanity, cannot but be esteem'd. Such therefore I earnestly invite to engage in this important work, without prejudice one way or other; and I shall always be glad to promote it to the utmost of my power. I have now by me The use I feveral cases set down in this method, intend to make of it which are vastly more exact than any that my felf. have yet appear'd; and if ever I write up-

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on any particular distemper, it shall be in this manner: firft, I'll give the bistories of the case from my own book; then the description at large, with the proper method of cure; and after that the Aphorisms, deducible from the foregoing account, that the reader may fee at once how just or unjust the inferences are. Nor will I ever write upon any subject, as a Physician, for which I have not tabular authority. Whoever will please to compare the books de morbis of Hippocrates and his Prognosticks with his books of Epidemicks, will eafily fee the reasonableness and usefulness of fuch a method. Not but the thing itself speaks for itself, and needs no manner of authority to keep it in countenance; but with fome people authority is all in all. Hippecra- To fay, that I have herein been greatly affifted by Hippocrates, is no more than what I have confess'd already; and perhaps no man will presently find out the easiest and best way of using it without I cou'd be glad therefore, that behim. fore

tes very useful in this way.

fore any person sets out, he wou'd first read the Epidemicks, the first and third books in particular. For, tho' the plan I have here propos'd, requires nothing more than a careful attendance to the Symptoms from day to day, with the Remedies, &c. made use of; yer, by being acquainted with Hippocrates's way of writing, a great deal of trouble will be fav'd; many things will be thought of, that might otherwife be overlook'd; and the case, when finish'd, be much more elegant. I cou'd be glad too, that he wou'd after that read his Prognosticks, his Prædictions, his Coacæ Pranotiones, his curious book de Aere, Locis & Aquis, and that famous one de Diæta in morbis acutis. The pleasure and advantage will, I'll answer for it, infinitely exceed the trouble; and he wou'd then fee what an extraordinary Man Hippocrates was, and how justly he has deserv'd all the encomiums that ever were or can be given him. I wou'd not be understood, as if I thought a man of learning cou'd do no-I could be gly therefore, that be-

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thing this way without Hippocrates. But, as every one allows that Hippocrates was furprifingly curious in his remarks, and by far the best Author among all the Ancients (the rest having borrow'd in a great meafure from him all that they have faid) one wou'd hear first, what such an one says; whether we follow it afterwards or not. For my own part, I am fo thoroughly fatisfied of his usefulness to Physicians, that I wish for nothing more earnestly than to fee the time, when it shall be as fashionable among us to understand him well, as it has been once to know little or nothing An account of him. And it is with this view that I have been at fuch incredible pains to pretion of Hip pare a new edition of his works, upon the plan I some time ago publish'd. Whatever fome Gentlemen may think of that defign, I am very well affur'd, that, fo far

from being mangled and misrepresented,

Hippocrates will then appear in the strong-

est and beautifullest light he ever yet ap-

pear'd in; and the chapter de Diagnosticis

of my intended edipocrates.

& Prognosticis in morbis acutis (which will comprehend almost all that is contain'd in his Prognosticon, the books de judicationibus & diebus judicatoriis, the first book of prædictions, and his Coaca prænotiones, &c.) will be the most surprizing piece that ever the world has feen. Even those who are well vers'd in Hippocrates will be astonish'd. For there is a great difference between reading things of the same tendency in different places, and reading 'em together, without the intervention of any foreign matter. A vast number of doubtful expressions are determin'd, and many obscure places clear'd up by this juxtaposition of parts. A man by this means fees into an Author at once, and is master of the subject presently; which in a voluminous writer, like Hippocrates, is no small advantage. Add to this, that many corrections have been made this way, which all the editors before have overlook'd; and a great many more by the help of a verbal and phraseological Index, that I have been at the pains M 4 to

to make by interleaving Foë fius's Occonomia (a work of the greatest labour I ever engag'd in); so that, in short, by taking Hippocrates to pieces, and comparing him with himself, this edition (which has been ready for the press some time) will be much more correct, as well as much more useful, than any former edition. It might perhaps have been more correct in some places, if the late learned Dr. Freind, who was pleas'd to give himself a good deal of trouble about it, had not dy'd when he did: and it wou'd have been in the press before now; but that having been at a great expence about it already, I thought it very reasonable to be eas'd in some measure of the remaining charge; especially as I never propos'd any private advantage to myself, but was defirous of communicating to the publick a book, that I am fatisfied will be as great a benefit to 'em as any book that ever was yet publish'd in Physick. If this impediment be remov'd, (as I have good reason to believe it will in a short time) I shall

shall then send it to the press forthwith: otherwise I shall return the subscribers their money, and reserve for my own private use what, for the good of mankind, I wou'd have been glad to have made publick.

But to return to the Table. There are a few circumstances, that I cou'd wish might always be remember'd, especially in acute cases; and they are such as relate to the Crises of Diseases; which no body has describ'd so fully and so elegantly as Hippocrates. From him therefore I beg leave to insert a few Aphorisms upon this subject.

- 1 The Prædictions in acute cases are not always certain, as to life or death.
 - 2 Acute cases generally come to a Crisis within sourteen days.

 Των οξεων νοσηματων ου παμπαν ασφαλεες αί προδιαγορευσιες ουτε του θανατου, οντε της ύγειης,
 L. 2. Aph. 19.

2 Τα οξεα των νοσηματων εν ήμεςησι κρινεται τεσσαρεσκαιδεκα, "ώς επι το ωουλυ." Co. Pr. 147, L. 2. Aph. 23. & L. de Judic. p. 53.

3. The

3 The Crisis likewise happens in Fevers, on the sourth, the seventh, the eleventh, the fourteenth, the seventeenth, the one and twentieth, and sometimes the thirtieth, the fortieth, and even sixtieth day: but after that, the case becomes Chronical.

A great deal more of this fort is to be met with in his *Prognosticon*, (not to mention other places) at the bottom of the 43^d page, and a great part of the 44th. To know when the *Crisis* is at hand, (a point of great importance) and the different ways by which it generally happens, we are admirably instructed in the following Aphorisms.

3 Κρινονται δε όι συρετοι, τεταρταιοι, έδομαιοι, ένδεκαταιοι, τεσσαρεσκαιδεκαταιοι, έπτακαιδεκαταιοι, εικοστη σρος τη μιη. Εκ δε τουτων των οξεων, τριακοσταιοι, ειτα τεσσαρακοσταιοι, ειτα έξηκοσταιοι όταν δε τουτους τους αριθμους ύπερδαλλη, χρονιη ηδη γινεται ή καταστασις των πυρετων. L. de Jud. P. 58.

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4. When

- 4 When the Crisis is at hand, the night before the Paroxysm is restless; but that after it is usually quieter.
- 5 Deep Sleeps, without disturbance, denote a perfect Crisis; but disturb'd Sleeps, with pains in the body, the contrary.
- 6 All diseases go off, either by the Mouth, or by Stool, or by Urine, or by some other way, as the Joints for instance; or by Sweat, which is common to all.

This Aphorism is a little fuller express'd elsewhere.

4 Οκοσοισι κεισις γινεται, τουτεοισιν ή νυξ δυσφοεος, ή ωεο του παροξυσμου ή δε επιουσα ευφορωτεςη, ώς επι το πουλυ. L. 2. Aph. 13.

5 Υπνοι βαθεες, μη ταραχωθεες, βεβαιαν πρισιν σημαινουσιν δι δε ταραχωθεες, μετ' αλγηματος σωματος, αβεβαιοι. Co. Pr. 151.

6 Τα δε νοσηματα παντα λυεται η κατα στομα, η κατα κοιλιην, η κατα κυστιν, η τινος αλλου τοιουτου, αρθρου ή δε του ίδρωτος ιδεη, κοινη άπαντων. L, de diæta in acutis. p. 403.

7. Acute

Acute cases go off, either by bleeding at the Nose, at the time of the Crisis; or by profuse Sweats; or by purulent and mucilaginous Urine, in great plenty, and with a good sediment; or by a considerable Abscess; or by mucous and bloody Stools, coming away on a sudden; or by well-condition'd Vomitings about the same time.

8 The seventh, ninth, or sourteenth day Fevers commonly go off by bleed-

7 Τα δε οξεα κρινεται, αίματος εκ ρινων ρυεντος εν κρισιμώ και ίδρωτος πολλου γενομενου και ουρου πυωδεος και ύαλωδεος γενομενου, ύποστασιν χρηστην εχοντος, και αθροου γενομενου και αποστηματος αξιολογου και κοιλιης μυξωδεος και αίματωδεος, και εξαπινης καταρραγεισης και εμετων ου μοχθηρων κατα κρισιν. Co. Pr. 150.

8 Εδδομαιοισιν, η εναταιοισιν, η τεσσαφεσκαιδεκαταιοισι φυσιες εκ ρινεων λυουσιν, ώς επι το πολυ, πους πυρεπους. όμοιως δε και κοιλίης φυσις χολωδης και δυσεντεριωδης, και πονος γουνατων η ιχιών, και ουφον πεπανθεν προς την κρισιν' εν γυναικι δε και επιμηνιών φυσις. Co. Pr. 152.

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ings at the Nose, or by bilious and bloody Stools, or by a pain of the Knees or Hips, or by concocted Urine about the Crisis; and in Women, by the breaking out of the Menses.

I believe there never were two Aphorisms contriv'd of more importance than the two last. And it is surprizing to me, that the Author cou'd comprehend so much in so small a compass. But indeed whoever reads Hippocrates, must expect to be surpriz'd very often.

The Signs of the particular evacuations are thus express'd.

9 Redness of the face in a Fever, with a violent pain in the head, and heating of the vessels, generally denotes Hæmor-

9 Των πυρεσσονίων, δισι μεν ερυθηματα επι προσωπον, και πονος κεφαλης ιχυρος, και σφυγμος φλεων, αιματος ρυσις τα πολλα γινεται δισι δε ασαι, και καρδιωίμοι, και πίυαλισμοι, εμετος δισι δε ερευίμοι, φυσαι, ψοφοι κοιλιης και επαρσιες, εκταραξις κοιλιης. Co. Pr. 142.

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rhages; nausea's, heart-burnings, and spittings, denote Vomiting; belchings, flatus, and rumbling in the belly with inflation, denote Purging.

It were endless to mention all that he has faid upon this subject; but there is one more of great use in Fevers, and indeed in almost all distempers, and that is,

10 No dependence is to be put upon those complaints that grow better without reason, nor are we to be much asraid of others that grow worse without reason: for such changes are generally unstable, and of short duration.

This is of such use in directing our Prognosticks, that I cou'd not help adding it: and these, I hope, are sufficient to shew

10 Τοισι μη κατα λογον κουφίζουσιν ου δει πιστευειν, ουδε Φοβειθαι λιην τα μοχθηρα γινομένα παραλογως. τα γαρ πολλα τοιουτεων εστιν αβεβαία, και ου πανυ τοι διαμενειν ουδε χρονίζειν ειωθεν. L. 2. A. 27.

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the reader what a masterly way this great man wrote in, and how important it is to observe the course of Fevers nicely.

To conclude: if this plan be follow'd, the consequence will be, that Diseases will be better known, and easier cur'd, even supposing the Materia Medica shou'd stand as it does. But if that also shou'd be reform'd, and put upon its proper foot, and no body fuffer'd to meddle with it, but fuch as are regularly bred to it, every thing wou'd then be done, that the Art is capable of, or that mankind in general can hope for: and I don't doubt but the event wou'd answer our utmost wishes. But this is a point that requires a more particular confideration; and therefore shall be defer'd at present. There's a time for every thing. If the business of Observation can be well manag'd, (and I'm fure the Nation never had a fet of Physicians better qualify'd for fuch a work, than the present; so far at least as learn-

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ing, and diligence, and bumanity, can do it) the many good effects that will follow from it, may perhaps dispose the Publick to a more ready compliance with what may one time or other be laid before 'em upon the other head. In the mean time, it will be a great pleasure to me to see the present plan take; not because it is mine, but because I am thoroughly satisfy'd, that the honour of the Faculty, and the fafety of the Publick, will be much better advanc'd by it, than 'tis possible they shou'd be without it; as matters now stand. But whether it be receiv'd or rejected, I am determin'd to go on with it my felf, fo far as I can, till I find fufficient reason to lay it aside, or alter it.

FINIS.



